the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

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Download PDF files of past issues, view daily announcements on the Twitter feed and watch replays of HHS OnDemand.

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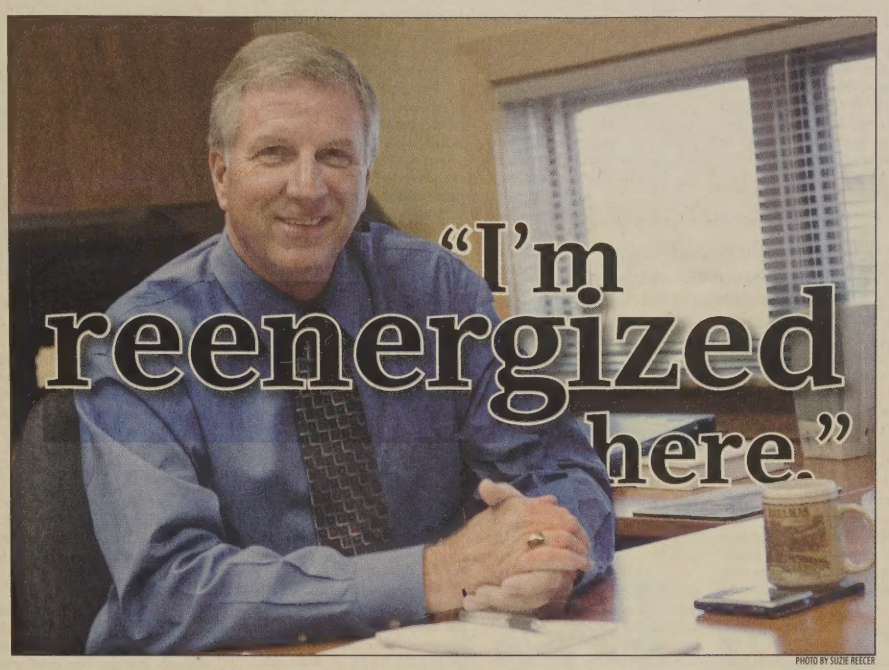


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Students give Obama's address passing grade

President emphasizes value of education

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

After it sparked initial controversy both nationally and locally, President Barack Obama's back-to-school speech has received bipartisan praise for serving as a motivational rather than political appeal.

Aired from a Virginia high school to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, the Sept. 8 speech caused many conservatives to question whether the president had political motives.

A lesson plan issued by the United States Department of Education, which included asking children to "write letters to themselves about what they can do to help the president," triggered parent outcry.

After many parents placed concerned phone calls regarding their children viewing the speech, Southwest Allen County Schools issued a statement to parents on the district website informing them that they could choose to have their children opt out of the speech without penalty. It was also the individual teacher's choice to show or not show the speech in the classroom. Students whose teachers did not show the speech could ask to go to another classroom to view the speech.

Aired at noon during fifth period, the address was welcomed in some classrooms while ignored in others.

"Getting an education means getting both points of view, whether you agree with them or not," Chemistry and Ecology teacher Emily Palmer said.

The president, though, won praise largely not because he advocated for a partisan viewpoint but because he promoted the universal significance of education and personal responsibility.

"What you make of your education will decide nothing less than the future of this country," Obama said in his speech. "What

▸▸SEE 'OBAMA', PAGE 2A

"I'm reenergized here."

New superintendent awed by district's overall success thus far

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

As students and staff prepare for another school year, Dr. Steve Yager also prepares for his first year as superintendent of Southwest Allen County Schools. Yager is stepping in after Dr. Brian Smith resigned during the summer and took a position as superintendent of Hamilton Southeast Schools.

"Dr. Yager and I have worked together closely as superintendents for many years," Dr. Smith said. "He is a perfect fit to provide the leadership that SACS needs to maintain educational excellence. He finds ways to connect the community with the schools and focuses on providing the very best in educational opportunities for students."

After learning of the change in late June, Yager said he felt "no hesitation" accepting the job. It was simply time for a change.

"I'm reenergized here," Yager said. "It's a different focus. It's a different energy."

Yager was the superintendent of Northwest Allen County Schools (NACS) for 19 years before he came to Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS). Upon joining SACS, he observed that he felt a sense of pride from the district.

"The students, the parents, the employees, and the community," Yager said. "We're proud of what [the district] stands for."

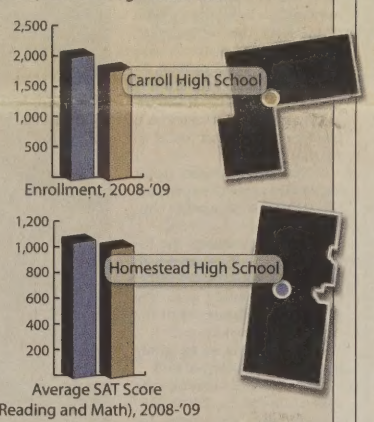
The SACS school board shares Yager's enthusiasm. "[Yager] has helped build our team and has gone to the next level [as a superintendent]," said John Blum, president of SACS school board. "He is

▸▸SEE 'YAGER', PAGE 2A

▸▸Above: Seated at his desk in the Southwest Allen County Schools administration building, Yager discusses adjusting to the new district. He admits that his greatest challenge at the moment is "getting to know people... putting names with faces."

TRANSITION BY NUMBERS

Both Southwest Allen County Schools and Yager's old district, Northwest Allen County Schools, have one high school each.



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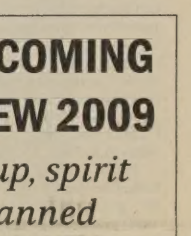

HOMECOMING PREVIEW 2009

Dress-up, spirit days planned

By Stepahnie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Crazy dressed-up students, anticipation of the game and excitement for the dance will rage through the hallways next week as it has during every previous Homecoming week. The week will include dress-up days, lunch games and a pep rally, all leading up to the actual night of Homecoming on Friday, September 25th. The evening will include a football game at 7pm and will be immediately followed by a dance.

Homecoming week is organized by student council, who thought of ideas for dress-up days, created a t-shirt design, and organized and put together a pep session. Their hard work is what will make Homecoming week a successful and enjoyable event.

"I really think that school spirit makes Homestead a better place," Quinn Brenneke (12) said. "When people are happier to be here, they will do better in their school work and in their extra curricular activities.

▸▸SEE 'WEEK', PAGE 2A

Two years in making, advisory program a reality for students

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

It is a known fact: High school is a place where many students feel stressed. Because school is a place where students should feel comfortable to ask questions and freely associate with their peers and teachers, Homestead recently adopted a program to help students cope with high school. This year, the new advisory program intends to help students have a better connection with teachers and peers while combatting the school's growing population.

The advisory program, backed by a Smaller Learning Communities grant, has been in development for two years at Homestead. During this period, administrators looked at all of the varying proposals to try to determine the best program for Homestead to introduce.

"We were looking at what other high schools in the nation were doing that are our size or bigger," assistant principal and Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) coordinator Jennifer Bay said. "We found their advisory programs have been a real benefit for them as well, where they are trying to help students understand that there is at least one adult in the building that can back them up or support them."

However, Bay was not the only administrator to witness the early efforts.

"I was on the advisory team, or the initial team that went to Phoenix, Ariz., two years ago in December to investigate the advisories and other things to do with the grant we had gotten," guidance counselor and grade-level advisory team leader Amy Hamilton said. "We were to follow rules as to how we were to use the grant money, so we went out to Phoenix to learn about programs and how we could utilize the money to benefit the students here in the building. So in the last couple years we have designed several programs to use that money, one of which is advisory."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Homestead's unique advisory program will address the school's needs without heavily altering the academic day. Advisory groups will meet about once a month at the beginning of the day with a group of students in the same grade and a teacher who can act as their advocate. The group and teacher will remain constant throughout high school to provide a sense of stability. In place of homeroom, housekeeping tasks as well as unique advisory activities will take place during the 40-minute meeting.

"Hopefully all students will benefit from the program, and feel that they

▸▸SEE 'ADVISORY', PAGE 2A

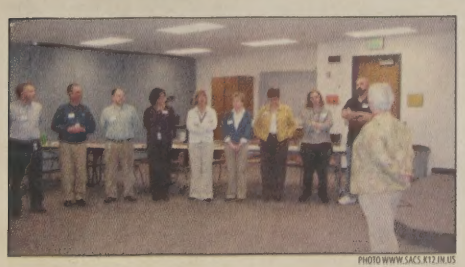

PHOTO WWW.SACS.K12.IN.US

SACS faculty members met as early as November 2007 to develop strategies for what is now the advisory program. The initiative assigns a single teacher to each student for their four years at Homestead.

School shaken by death of '07 graduate

Landon Siela remembered for optimism, determination

By Dan Vandeveer
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It was a gray-skied, cloudy day in August. Everyone was dressed in the dark colors associated with a funeral except for former and current lacrosse players, who came clad in their jerseys to honor their fellow player.

Landon Siela ('07) always loved lacrosse, so, to commemorate his passion, a lacrosse stick was laid on the open casket. Lacrosse players, coaches and family members alike felt the rollercoaster of emotions generated by the loss of a great man.

> "It is very tough to comprehend how someone as young as Landon can be living one moment and dead the next day."
>
> **LONN MEYER**
> *Lacrosse Player*

Siela was the victim of a prank gone horribly wrong. Some of his friends decided it would be funny to make him think he was being robbed at gunpoint. While Siela was visiting his friends at Purdue University, they broke into the house, packing guns that they believed to be unloaded. However, when they pulled the trigger as a finale to the prank, the gun fired, and Siela was shot in the neck.

"What made a huge impact on everyone around me [at the funeral] was that it was an open casket funeral, which showed how young he was and that he actually is dead," Lonn Meyer (11) said. "It is very tough to comprehend how someone as young as Landon can be living one moment and dead the next day."

Siela both played on and later coached the club lacrosse team at Homestead. He was the type of person to let his actions speak louder than his words, a trait more apparent on the field than anywhere else.

"He initially wasn't a captain when he played on the team, but he was made a captain later in the year because he led by ex

▸▸SEE 'SIELA', PAGE 2A

FILE PHOTO

Siela, pictured in a 2007 class portrait above, played defense on the varsity lacrosse team and earned a place on High Honor Roll for four years in a row.

JUST IN

Amanda McLaughlin ('07) dies in hit-and-run near Canterbury Green Apartments.

BRIEFS

COLLEGE VISITS
Hope College will be visiting Homestead on Wednesday, Sept. 23 and Grace College will be visiting on Thursday, Sept. 24. Students must sign up for these meetings in Student Services one day in advance.

BACK ROOM'S BACK
The Student Government-sponsored back room has returned. It will be open during all lunches on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Members will be selling sweets similar to those of last year.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
Starting Tuesday, Sept 22 and lasting throughout Homecoming Week, cornhole matches will be held during lunches. Teams of two will play for a chance at a spot in the championship round on Friday.

INTERNET ACCESS
Students without Internet access should have their parent or contact Mrs. Junk at (260) 431-2209. Important school information is shared online, and those without access may be excluded from such notices.

DRAMA CLUB
There will be a meeting for students interested in joining a drama club on Thursday immediately after school. Drama teacher Victoria Malooley will be available during school to discuss the club forming.

NATATORIUM LIFEGUARD
The natatorium at Summit Middle School is seeking students who would like to lifeguard. Because training classes are required, please contact Shona at the Natatorium as soon as possible.

▸▸WEEK CONTINUED FROM 1A

I'm looking forward to helping raise the school spirit by planning some really fun events for homecoming week."

Dress-up days will kick off the week to allow students to dress up and be silly at school. Monday is preppy day, Tuesday is teacher day, Wednesday is cowboy day, Thursday is twin day and Friday is crazy blue day; blue is the color the student section will wear to wear to the football game. Each student is encouraged to show their school spirit by dressing up according to each specific day.

Additionally, during lunch on Friday, students will be able to play a trivia game and there will be a corn hole tournament to give students a fun opportunity.

At the end of the week, a pep rally will be held at the end of the school day to get the student body riled up for the game. The fall athletes will be introduced, the dance team will perform a hip hop number, the Homecoming court will be introduced, and as during every previous Homecoming pep session, fun games will be played to get the entire school excited.

The Homecoming court, nominated by their peers, was announced over the morning announcements two weeks prior to Homecoming and will be announced again during next Friday's pep rally. The females on Homecoming court are Laura Aleman (12), Amy Banas (12), Jenna Banas (12), Courtney Blosser (12), Emily Mungovan (12), Nicole Musi (12), Carolyn Mutton (12), and Rachel Rifkin (12). The males on Homecoming court are Thomas Ault (12), Quinn Brenneke (12), Michael Buchanan (12), Kaleb Cox (12), Jamarus Curry (12), Kegan Harkenrider (12), Anthony Mullen (12), and Andrew Phillippe (12). Their fellow students will pick the two most eligible court members, one male and one female, to be crowned King and Queen of the Homecoming Court. Winners will be announced during halftime of Friday's game.

The football team will play Dekalb at the Homecoming game. Football players feel very confident about the game. They consistently endure difficult and intense practices to prepare for each game, but their goal is to practice as if they were playing against their opponent every time they step onto the field. To practice, they review films of past games to pinpoint their strengths and identify areas on which to improve. In order to get excited and motivated to win the game next week, the football team believes that students should support them.

"The student section plays a big part in the momentum of the game," Cody Appenzeller (11) said. "After a big play the whole student section is yelling and it gets the team excited and the morale of the team is lifted because of the cheering of the students."

After the game, the Homecoming dance will begin in the cafeteria. In order to get into the dance, students have to have either a Homecoming T-shirt, on sale at lunch next week for $10, or they have to pay $10 at the door.

"I'm really excited to go to the game and the dance," Megan Gansemer (11) said. "I want to support the football team and I really hope a lot of students come to the game. The dance is a great way to end the night and I think it will be a huge hit. Every student should come to both the game and the dance. It's a fun way to end the night."

Homecoming week is always a chance where students can, and do, show their school spirit to their fullest potential. Get ready, Homestead, for a week filled with cheers and laughter.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Students watch during fifth period as President Barack Obama addresses the nation's schoolchildren, stressing the value of an education in today's society. The president also mentioned that, although pupils often hear about rags-to-riches stories of celebrities, they must put forth effort in everything they do regardless of such tales.

▸▸OBAMA CONTINUED FROM 1A

you're learning in school today will determine whether we as a nation can meet our greatest challenges in the future."

"In a way I thought [students] heard the same thing that they heard from parents and teachers," Palmer said, "but sometimes it helps to hear it from someone else. The speech focused on personal responsibility... I thought it was nonpartisan, not political at all. It was good, and I didn't see any harm in it..."

> "In a way, I thought that students heard the same thing that they heard from parents and teachers, but sometimes it helps to hear it from someone else."
>
> **EMILY PALMER**
> *Ecology Teacher*

Many have hailed the speech as particularly motivational because of President Obama's personal story. By incorporating his own story into the speech, he meant to encourage students and to show them that if he was able to become president, they can achieve their goals, too.

"He's a remarkable role model," art teacher Michael Schmid said. "He comes from a single mother family, was very challenged and through education, he's reached the apex of society, a very rare thing to happen for a president. He's far more like many people in our society today... I liked when he said he made mistakes, but had second chances."

Students at Homestead were given the opportunity to choose to watch the speech, provided their teacher chose to show it and they were not occupied with lunch at the time. Most students chose to watch the speech and decide for themselves what they thought.

"I chose to watch it, along with the rest of my class," Cara Pepperman (11) said. "However, I did not think his speech was controversial. It was simply a motivational speech for kids to do their best in school."

Even many self-proclaimed opponents of the Obama administration had trouble finding fault in the speech.

"I thought it was pretty good actually and all the conservatives who were being alarmists, like me, were completely wrong because he didn't really blend in politics or socialism," Arjun Achary (11) said. "But I also think that most people who agreed with the message and liked the speech are more susceptible to become Obama supporters and vote for him in the 2012 election."

Overall, controversy surrounding the speech was overshadowed by the message that students must take personal responsibility for their own education, a message to which Democrats and Republicans alike can relate.

▸▸YAGER CONTINUED FROM 1A

very active and spends less time working behind a desk and more time [at the schools]. He's very strong on mentoring leaders... he intends to assess the district as a whole and speak more with the staff."

> "We should be continually improving our technology skills. I would like to see no textbooks. Everything is online."
>
> **STEVE YAGER**
> *SACS Superintendent*

When asked about his transition from NACS to SACS, Yager commented that it was very similar to "being a freshman," the hardest tasks being readjusting to a new environment and putting names to faces.

Yager noted that the two districts are very similar; both have highly able, motivated students. They differ only in small details. SACS has 700 more students than NACS, and SACS has a human resources staff. To adapt to the new surroundings, Yager said all he can do is "start listening and learning."

Dr. Smith's retirement during times of economic instability stirred unrest among SACS residents. To compensate for budget challenges, the district was forced to cut 23 teachers and to limit the number of field trips taken throughout the school year, reducing the district's expenditures by $1.2 million. As funds increase, the district plans on rehiring teachers. In the meantime, Yager has a positive outlook on SACS' financial future.

"Nothing's broken, nothing's falling apart," Yager said. "The budget is under control."

Looking towards the future, Yager said he wants to enhance southwest Allen County by "dialing in on the good" and building off of the county's strengths.

"Progress is an on-going goal and effort," Yager said.

Progress will indeed be the aspiration for the 2009-2010 school year. "Our focus for the year is to ensure that all students learn, improve, and graduate with the skills and knowledge to be successful in their next transition," said Dr. Nancy Carey, assistant superintendent of SACS. "Dr. Yager is passionate about helping us provide the best possible education for our students."

Yager is hoping to see advancements in Southwest Allen County's technology. To cut costs on textbook rentals and printing, Yager wants to see students receive laptops instead. New technology must be incorporated into schools to allow students to flourish in the modern age, and laptops would provide students with an essential up-to-date education tool. Students would receive one laptop for elementary school, one for middle school, and one for high school.

"We should be continuously improving our technology skills," said Yager, "I would like to see no textbooks. Everything is online."

Another aspiration for the future is incorporating local businesses in the high school curriculum. By training students during their high school years to work for local businesses, Yager hopes to "keep the talent in Fort Wayne." This plan would also attract more businesses to Fort Wayne, an advantage particularly considering the current economic situation. Students would be trained for a particular occupation and then would be able to work immediately after school. Hence, students would be encouraged to stay in Fort Wayne and businesses in Fort Wayne would be provided with trained employees.

"We could drive the economy based on student applications and economic opportunities," said Yager.

Yager would also like to collaborate with NACS. This partnership would allow a pooling of NACS' and SACS' resources, facilities, classes, and teachers, which would in turn allow for a better learning experience for students of both districts.

"I think there should be more sharing of instructional technique," Yager said. "There shouldn't be any reason to not cross the borders."

Carey believes that Yager can help the district achieve those goals beyond traditional boundaries. "He has an impeccable reputation as both a leader and a person," said Carey. "He wants all students and employees to continue to grow and be even better in their respective roles."

After spending time working in the district, Yager said he "enjoys the cooperative spirit of the community." He described SACS as a district that balances itself and has everything that schools strive to offer.

"It's not just sports, academics, and activities," said Yager. "It's the whole package."

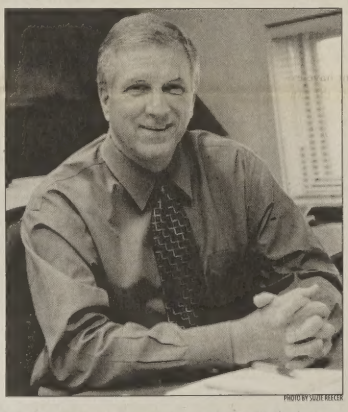

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Yager's goals include keeping up with new educational technologies.

▸▸SIELA CONTINUED FROM 1A

eample both in practice and during the games," John Belote, JV head coach for the lacrosse team, said. "As a player, he wasn't the best athlete on the team, but he always gave his best effort. His heart and passion for the sport were his biggest assets as a player and a coach. He may not have always known what to do, but whatever he did, he gave 100 percent."

Part of the mourning process for many people is recalling favorite memories and great times they had together.

"My favorite memory with him was when we were scrimmaging my freshman – his senior – year," Chris Rittenhouse (12) said. "He was on the opposing team. I was running the ball down the sideline and spun past an opponent at midfield only to find Landon there when I had completed my juke. He then [knocked me over] and got the ball. After the game he came up to me and asked if I was okay. That's the kind of guy he was. He was tough on the field but nice off the field."

Siela was not only a force on the turf, but also an exemplary student. His teachers remember him for his excellent attitude in school; during his four years at Homestead, his GPA never slipped below 10.0.

"I had Landon in Film and Video, and he did a really nice job," Lisa Ricker, who still teaches the elective, said. "It's been a few years since I had him in class... but I do remember that he was a great student."

Anyone that knew Siela will attest to his modesty, his character and his one-of-a-kind personality. Lacrosse players will remember him not only as a player or coach but as a personable man to admire as a role model.

"Landon was all around an easygoing type of guy," Trent Cooper (12) said. "As a freshman, he was one of the seniors that would be somewhat personable and actually talk to us on occasion. Being a defender, he was one of the players I looked up to. While he was a coach he would mess around with us all the time. I'll remember him as somebody who always seemed to be in a good mood and had a real love for the sport of lacrosse."

This year, lacrosse players are going to wear a black sticker on their helmets with Siela's initials, so that, as stated by Belote, "he will still be with his extended family of brothers, the Homestead Lacrosse Club, this year."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Radio Nowhere?

91.1 FM "The Point" attempts to change genres to lure consistent listeners, fans

By Nathan Berning
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Despite its numerous accolades, Homestead's Radio station still seems to be a relatively unknown station amongst its students. WCYT, 91.1 FM "The Point" is a student-run radio station that airs music, news, sports, and weather 24/7.

Airing for many years, "The Point" has won multiple awards, including many individual DJ awards and numerous IASB State Awards . Yet despite seeing the familiar bumper stickers around the school advertising the station, many students are left in the dark as to what the radio station is all about.

91.1 FM "The Point" is a rapidly changing professional sounding station, listed as "Fort Wayne's Only Alternative." Overseen by Adam Schenkel, anyone in the general public, students included, can tune any radio and listen to the station. The station's website, www.wcyt.org, has information about the station; its DJ's and even the playlists for the day which update automatically. "The Point" is run solely by dedicated student Cam Kaminski (12), music director of the station. Kaminski spends several hours every day updating the station's playlists and keeping the new music coming.

"I set the logs to make sure that the music continues to play over the air, and I also send the charts to the record companies to let them know what we are playing," Kaminski said. "I select a lot of our newer music from my personal collection. We get weekly CD's from the record companies we have signed, so we keep mostly in line with their priorities as well, however I listen to each song meticulously before I allow it to air."

With the work and hours put in by dedicated students like Kaminski, the station continues to run 24/7, and it did so even through the summer. Kaminski says that Homestead students should expect more than ever out of the station this year.

"We played a lot of old music for a while, and we have shifted to newer, more eclectic music selection," Kaminski said. "Also, we are taking a more indie-rock direction this year as opposed to a primarily alternative station. We are really trying to add a new angle to The Point this year and so far we are definitely succeeding."

Kaminski's plan is also a strategic one. With few to no other stations playing similar music, 91.1 "The Point" has found its niche and has attracted a dedicated group of loyal listeners.

Ian Hamilton (11) had not heard of The Point until his sophomore year, but is now an avid listener.

"Mr. Dillman had a sticker in his room. If I hadn't seen the sticker, it may have been a while before I found out about the station." Hamilton said. Since then, he has grown to be a big fan of the station.

"It's pretty much the only station I listen to, except when they play sportscasts," Hamilton said. "I'll listen to it even after I leave [Homestead]."

But even with a loyal following from listeners like Hamilton, 91.1 is still not known by everyone in the school, a surprising fact considering the large following of alternative and rock genres.

"I like alternative because the instruments aren't trying to take over the vocalist," Anirudh Yalamanchali (11) said. "I had never heard of 91.1 The Point, until now of course."

As "Fort Wayne's Only Alternative," 91.1 provides a broad selection of music that many can enjoy. So tune that dial next time you're in your car, and see if the new selection of music is something you can tap the steering wheel to.

▸▸ADVISORY CONTINUED FROM 1A

have a connection with at least one adult in the building if they don't already," Bay said. "And their advisor could potentially be the person in the building that the student goes to share their concerns with about school and to get extra support with grades."

As a result of these benefits, feedback relayed to the teachers and administrators is already positive.

"Overall, I feel that the advisory program is a lot of fun," Erica Isenberg (12) said. "I feel that it is better than having homerooms. In advisory, you do other things, whether this be playing games, talking to your teacher or talking with other kids in your class. As a senior, I would have preferred to have the advisory initiated earlier, because as seniors we only have one year to get to know our teacher, and underclassman have more time to get to know [their advisory group]."

However, considering that the advisory program is fairly new, adjustments are bound to be made.

"I think the kids are still a little leery, because they don't know about the program yet," Hamilton said. "But I think that it will get easier for teachers and students as we go along, because they'll get more comfortable with it. I think there's some apprehension by teachers and students, but it was expected. The program needs a lot of time, dedication and effort by students and teachers and everybody just has to work together to find the energy to see it through."

DEBUNKING HOMESTEAD

Myth: Two-hour delays will not be counted as full days and must be added onto the end of the school year to total 180 full days.

Status: False. According to principal's secretary Jan Fisher, two-hour delays still count as a full day and will not need to be made up at the end of the school year. Half days cannot be counted as instructional days and do not add to the 180-day count. Therefore, none have been scheduled in the 2009-2010 school year. If no additional days are necessary at the end of second semester, Thursday, June 10 is the last day for students this year. – *Hana Svetlovics*

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OPINION

the GLIMPSE

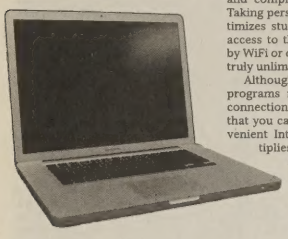
PHOTO BY BEN MORSELLI

This school year kicks off the new and improved administrative system for student parking. While the seniors still have assigned numerical parking, sophomores and juniors are no longer divided into two lots, but are rather free to roam to whichever lot his or her young hands steer them. Current juniors may have a general consensus of the new system being unfair, but when looking at the school as a whole, the parking lot procedures have changed for the better.

OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET

LEFT AND WRITE | Laptop Internet Access During School: Convenient or Calamitous

The Issue: Homestead does not currently have WiFi or internet access of any kind for students who bring laptops to school, such as those in Computer Programming. While such access could be useful, it could lead to computer damage. Should this service be allowed to students?



Wireless networks useful for students

By Chrissy Verhoff
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Why hold students back at school when they could be benefiting from the use of Internet on personal laptops? These devices are not only convenient; they can be used for a variety of tasks, including note-taking, research and completing online assignments. Taking personal laptops to school optimizes students' efficiency, and with access to the school's Internet either by WiFi or cable, the opportunities are truly unlimited.

Although laptops provide several programs not requiring an Internet connection, the disheartening truth is that you can do little without it. Convenient Internet access simply multiplies a student's productivity. Research, which is done in nearly every class at some point, is often time-consuming and inconvenient; however, with wireless Internet access and a student's own laptop, this type of work can be completed anywhere in the school at any time.

Instead of fighting against the innovative new technology with which our generation is being faced, we should learn to use these devices to better our education and ourselves. Some students, such as those in computer programming classes, already bring laptops – just imagine how much more they could accomplish with Internet access.

Another common issue concerns textbooks: carrying, losing, and replacing them constantly. Most new textbooks provide users with an online version, which could free students from the hassle of carrying heavy and expensive books daily. Empire High School in Arizona has gone completely digital, according to CBS News. Rather than carrying textbooks, notebooks and pencils, only a laptop is required. As technology begins to improve and spread, Homestead should embrace change and prepare for a more advanced future.

Computers risky, liability to district

By Kirsten Overdahl
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Schools should not allow students to have Internet connections on personal laptops. While in-class Internet provides interactive educational opportunities and resources, liability risks are too great to allow personal internet access.

Schools are obligated to act in loco parentis, meaning that when a student is on school property, the school takes legal responsibility for that student. If a student accesses inappropriate material on a personal laptop while using a school server and the server's filter does not catch it, the school district is liable for that student's behavior.

Moreover, many schools are unable to monitor wireless network systems, but can also be liable for not monitoring a student's behavior. Not only does this place the school in a Catch-22 position, but it also allows a lack of personal accountability for student actions to foster.

If students can use their own laptops to access non-school-related material while knowing that they are immune to punishment, students will push boundaries and stray from classroom focus. Just take a look at Liverpool High School in New York, for example, where students hacked into local businesses and downloaded pornography.

Not to mention the formidable risk – if a personal laptop accesses the school's server, the laptop must be 100 percent free from viruses and malware. Otherwise, according to SACS Director of Technology Don Chase, any virus on a laptop could be transferred to the school server, crippling the system. A broken server is expensive and detracts from the learning experience of every student, not just a single inconvenienced student. Students should use school-provided Internet access providing the same opportunities with less liability for a more safe and secure learning environment.

Parking lot procedure changes for the better

With the start of the school year, students have seen many changes in rules and procedures, especially regarding the parking lots. We believe these changes are, holistically, reasonable and for the better.

Seniors scrambled for their parking spots online this year instead of picking them at registration, a busy and crowded affair that favored students who could come in the early morning. The online sign-up was orderly and efficient, and while some students may not have had Internet access, the current process is still more practical than that of last year.

However, a more controversial change is the dissolution of the junior lot; both sophomores and juniors are free to park in either the previous junior lot by the tennis courts or the sophomore lot south of the school. While some juniors may be upset at not receiving the privileges they might have expected to come with newfound seniority, the situation is currently unproblematic. Oftentimes, there are still spots left empty in the former junior lot, partly because many sophomores have not received their licenses yet or arrive late and assume that all spots are taken.

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Some people, moreover, may choose to park in the south lot anyway as it is easier to get exit at the end of the school day. Of course, when winter weather approaches, more students will opt for the former junior lot and irritation will surely surface among 11th-grade students.

We believe this change will only cause such disgruntlement this year. Due to Senate Bill 16, requirements for teenagers to obtain licenses will change. As of July 1, 2010, students will be required to be 16 years and 180 days old in order to receive their licenses, as opposed to the previous mandate of 16 years and 30 days. Clearly, this will be a setback for many sophomores and provide juniors with all the space they need, regardless of whether that new space can be found near the tennis courts or south of the football field.

Finally, parking in the wrong spot, an infraction, will result in a warning the first time; on the second infraction, the vehicle will immediately be towed. This has been deemed the "One and Done" policy by administrators. While harsher than last year's rules, we believe the change will help weed out incompetent drivers and reform anybody who does not understand the simple senior parking system.

Dear Healthcare Reform Critics,

GET WELL SOON.

PHOTO HTTP://TRUPOLITICS.NET/CATEGORY/HEALTHCARE/

Right: Barack Obama delivers a speech detailing his new health care initiatives that include public health options to the uninsured and new tax credits to make insurance more affordable.

By Adrienne Westenfeld
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The present American health care system could very aptly be described as a nightmare – swarming waiting rooms, sky-high costs for insurance and essential death sentences given to those whose occupations do not provide benefits. This backwards system longs for reform, and if naysayers were able to see beyond their misinformed, preconceived notions, they would realize that private insurance benefits no one but the insurance companies.

As it stands, the purchase of health insurance for those not employed by a company that provides benefits can prove to be an astronomical expense – a bill that, according to the National Coalition on Health Care, 28 percent of American citizens are unable to foot. It is extraordinarily unjust that previous administrations were content to enact a hands-off procedure in which they neglected the matter and allowed citizens to be swindled by health care providers simply because they had no better alternative.

Conservative fear-mongering and traditionalist resistance to reform have created the common misconception that a restructured system will eliminate private insurance companies and force citizens to submit to a dissatisfactory plan. This outcome is a fabricated scenario – health care reform will not swallow private industry, but create a competing government-supported insurance plan tailored to those who do not qualify for or cannot afford private health insurance.

The fact of the matter is that private industry is an inefficient, backwardly preferential system that discriminates against those suffering from preexisting conditions, charges ridiculous out-of-pocket sums, and drops the ill when their medical expenses become so costly that they are in dire need of insurance. The Obama plan will create a public option that can be bought into just as easily as private insurance, and the public option will drive costs up and down alongside private insurance companies in order to make the market more competitive. Doing so will allow any citizen the option of affordable coverage, while responsible investments and a tax imposed upon exorbitantly expensive insurance companies will help to fund reform and avoid the costly endeavor that conservatives so fear.

> "The president's plan will provide for the poor and the ill that for years have been villainized and rejected by penny-pinching private companies."
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Life Editor*

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll suggested that 68 percent of respondents affirmed their trust in Medicare, whereas only 48 percent of respondents expressed faith in private insurance. Health care is such an expansive system that the sole entity capable enough to control it remains to be the government. The president's plan will provide for the poor and the ill that for years have been villainized and rejected by penny-pinching private medical insurance companies.

A study by the Institution of Medicine discovered that over an astonishing 18,000 unnecessary deaths each year are caused by a lack of health coverage, whereas only 37 death row inmates were executed in 2008. The cost of suspending criminals in high-security federal prisons for the numerous years leading up to their executions is certainly a sum comparable to the cost of treatment for those numerous citizens who suffered tragic deaths due to tightfisted insurance companies. This is reality – hard-working Americans are sometimes unable to pay high premiums despite company benefits. American society is truly in a sad state of affairs in that health care has become so inaccessible.

It is not the explicit constitutional responsibility of the administration to provide nationalized health care for its citizens; it is, however, the unequivocal responsibility of the government to protect its citizens from the threat of disease and the vindictively unprofessional conduct of healthcare providers.

The exorbitant highway robbery of yesteryears must cease. It is high time for private insurance companies to cover more than their own mistakes, and they should by no means whatsoever control American citizens when lives hang precariously in the balance.

Dairy industry runs on deception

By Celia Grundman
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Americans live in a toxic food environment. Bombarded from every angle with ads for junk foods, products which are more accessible than a juicy apple or a crunchy carrot stick, we find it increasingly difficult to distinguish between the real science of nutrition and the junk – thanks to the pernicious propaganda of the food industry.

Consequently, we are a disease-ridden country. According to the American Cancer Society, males have a 47 percent chance of getting cancer in their lifetime; females, 38 percent. Not to mention our high rates of obesity and heart disease – the latter of which kills one in every three Americans.

Our couch potato and potato chip-consuming lifestyles lead to these preventable diseases. Tragically, the United States pays more for health care than any country in the world, yet this does not create health. The United States' health care system has been ranked 37th in the world by the World Health Organization.

With a constant flux of fad diets and weight-loss programs, the public is confused. Since the pilgrims first came on the Mayflower, Americans have believed in a hearty meat and potato diet. They are as yet unaware of the dangers of consuming animal-based foods.

Protein, we seem to believe, optimally comes from meat and dairy products. In a study by Dr. T. Campbell, casein (which makes up 87 percent of cow's milk protein) used on lab rats led to a direct increase in the development of foci, which are clusters of cells that are the precursors of tumors. Conversely, plant protein, typically thought of as the "low-quality" protein, had no effect.

Americans believe, moreover, in the necessity of dairy products for calcium and strong bones. The dairy industry implements such stereotypes in marketing their products to schoolchildren, who quickly absorb the message and the misconception.

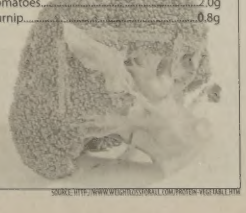
The Japanese like their veggies. They do not, however, consume much dairy goodness. Ever wondered why their osteoporosis rates are 2.5 times lower than ours? Scientific studies, such as the China studies, have shown that diets based on plant protein rather than animal lead to significantly lower rates of osteoporosis and other diseases, such as cancer. In fact, the only countries with higher rates of osteoporosis are Australia and New Zealand, in which people consume even more milk than Americans.

Americans rely on the dairy industry for nutrition education. Ubiquitous nutrition lesson plans and teaching guides are provided to schools from the industry, which has more than $165 million to fund their misleading propaganda. A committee of seven prominent research scientists, hired by the National Dairy Council and the American Meat Institute, keeps tabs on "dangerous" research that is potentially harmful to the industry. Such lobbyists have a grim grip on the public health.

So what's the solution? People can't just pop a pill every time they contract their all too predictable chronic illnesses. The effort has to be individual. Each person can make choices to veer toward a more plant-based diet – and that's not to say everyone has to be a vegan. Just realize that what you consume has consequences.

AMOUNT OF PROTEIN (PER 100 GRAMS)

Asparagus	3.0g
Broccoli	3.0g
Carrot	0.5g
Celery	0.5g
Lettuce	0.7g
Mushroom	2.0g
Onion	0.7g
Spinach	2.0g
Tomatoes	2.0g
Turnip	0.8g



SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.WEIGHTOSYNRAIL.COM/PROTEIN-VEGETABLE.HTM

LIFE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY AMANDA WINGATE

On Saturday, September 12, the boys swim team participated the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes at Headwaters Park. This year's men's march in women's heels had 485 walkers and many cheerleaders for the walking groups. Nine of the girl's swim team members also attended to cheer the boys on to victory. The girls made signs and wore swim team spiritwear to to show support. Along with their cheers of excitement at the half-mile location and finish line, the girls and boys all got together and ran together with their head coach during the last one hundred feet of the race and to show their support for his efforts on their team.

The Sparknotes Experiment

Sparknotes

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD, TESS ANGLIN AND MARY DISTLER
Life Editor, Writer and Designer • life@thespartana.net

Since its inception as a primitive underground literary website to its present status as a streamlined academic resource in numerous subject areas, Sparknotes has remained a divisive subject among students and teachers alike. Whereas numerous teachers believe it to be an unredeemable tool devised for cheating, students view it as a resource used to assist in deciphering literature that sometimes seems otherwise incomprehensible.

Having witnessed this debate remain a troublesome controversy far beyond its shelf life, a group of intrepid journalists schemed to set the record straight once and for all. The hypothesis: Sparknotes may be a beneficial resource, but its value can only be harnessed when used in tandem with the work of literature itself. The experiment: six random students were gathered and given a test on James Joyce's Araby, but whereas three were given the text of Araby itself, three were given the Sparknotes.

The conclusion: as the average score for students given the Sparknotes was 80% and the average score for those given the text was 95%, it can be deduced that the original hypothesis was correct; Sparknotes are not a resource adequately detailed enough to replace the literature itself.

"Sparknotes are not a valid replacement for books read in class," Cary Cavacini, English teacher, said. "However, Sparknotes can be used as a supplement along with the original text to help with any ambiguity."

Despite the reality that students may joke about being too disinterested or too busy to read a book that they consider incomprehensible and outdated, the fact remains that not all students subscribe to the mentality of coasting through reading comprehension quizzes on sparse cliffnotes.

"Sparknotes does some critical thinking for you, yet it lacks the sometimes necessary details in the actual text. Sparknotes is a great tool for review, but it [is not a substitute for] the actual book. If you choose Sparknotes, you take a gamble and risk not knowing important information not [included] on the Sparknotes. I would never skip the book," Michael Peters (11) said.

"I prefer to do the actual reading because I like to have a better understanding of what I am reading. The book provides all of the important details that Sparknotes will not give you. I will read Sparknotes after reading, but more to refresh my memory for tests," Max Dvorak (9) said.

However, can Sparknotes offer the detailed minutiae of classic literature, such as which books Guy Montag snatched from burning houses, how many years Odysseus spent imprisoned on the remote isle of Calypso, or to what star-crossed Romeo likened Juliet during the balcony scene? Furthermore, while it provides comprehensive analysis of literary devices, can it thoroughly illuminate the tone and diction of an author?

"It is impossible for a student to appreciate or be able to discuss a book intelligently regarding the author's style and diction using Sparknotes, although they might aid in [describing] the author's tone," Cavacini said.

The ultimate question remains: is the utilization of Sparknotes in actuality a covert method of falsehood and cheating? This premise has been speculated upon by countless students as well as ruled upon and firmly advised against by numerous teachers, but how can something so often utilized as an addendum and study aid to a work of dense literature possibly be considered deceitful?

"I consider it cheating if you copy your answers off of Sparknotes, but if you just use it for help and to enhance your understanding, then it is just like using any other resource," Dvorak said.

"Whether using Sparknotes is cheating has to be answered by the student. If, though, a student reads only the Sparknotes, that student would be lying if he or she pretended to have read the book itself," Cavacini said.

The topic is as played out as a broken record, but it is evident that perspectives shift and fluctuate among teachers and students with each year and each new influx of varied learning styles. While the aptly titled "Sparknotes Experiment" was intended to at last put the controversy to rest, it seems as though the divisive issue stubbornly refuses to be dispelled, seeing as Sparknotes certainly won't be.

this week's
TOP 10 sparknotes

The Scarlet Letter
Beowulf
Lord of the Flies
To Kill A Mockingbird
The Iliad
The Crucible
The Great Gatsby
The Odyssey
The Catcher in the Rye
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

The testing done in for this article was accomplised by *The Spartana* and with the cooperation of six Homestead students. Statistics and percentages are based off of scores from the test results. Each student had not read *Araby* prior to the testing. Students to take the test after reading Sparknotes and the students to take the teast after reading a chapter from *Araby* were chosen at random by *The Spartana* staff.

Extensive application awaits IU foreign exchange hopefuls

Seven-week program requires complex process

BY ALEXIS YANEZ
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While most seniors are scrambling to send in their college applications before deadline, other students are applying for a wholly different experience. Next summer, students could be living in a foreign country, practicing their knowledge of different cultures, exploring new languages and forging newfound traditions.

The Indiana University Honors Foreign Exchange Program is a seven-week program, according to the IU Honors website. Thirty students are chosen to participate; these students could travel to St. Brieuc or Brest in France, Krefeld in Germany, San Luis Potosi in Mexico or Valencia, Leon, Oviedo or Ciudad Real in Spain. The most crucial rule of the Honors Program is the ability to speak a foreign language for a prolonged seven weeks.

"The foreign exchange program is an important part of the educational experience; it is life-changing. It is a valuable lesson to live with another family and be immersed in the culture," Dolores Klocke, head of the Dave Hefner International Exchange Fund, said.

To apply for the IU Honors Foreign Exchange Program, the applicant must be in at least their third year of French, German or Spanish. The applicant must also be in their junior or senior year of high school.

"The application process is a long process to go through. First, a proficiency test is taken to see how well the student knows the language. After the test, there are several forms that must be completed," Anna Stone (11), who traveled to France over the previous summer, said. "If the student did well on the test and had a strong application, then the student may not have to interview to be accepted. Students who do not have to be interviewed are generally accepted sooner."

Once the student has passed the proficiency test, the student can then fill out certain forms. Appraisal forms include the two confidential school appraisals, which are comprised of two parts, A and B. Part A is to be filled out by a faculty member who is not the current foreign language teacher of the student applying. The foreign language teacher is to complete Part B. Yet another appraisal in the long process of paperwork is the confidential adult appraisal, completed by an adult who knows the student but is not a relative or teacher. The appraiser's signature must be across the seal of the envelope with the appraisals in it.

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> **DOLORES KLOCKE**
> *Head of the Dave Hefner International Exchange Fund*

The personal application is the next step in the process. This application contains Sections A-F. These sections include a plethora of questions about the daily details of the applicant's life and personality.

The next step in the application process is to write a letter in the foreign language in which a student specializes. The student is supposed to write the letter as if he or she is writing to a friend or relative. Nobody is permitted to help the student write this letter, which should also be written as if the applicant had already participated in the program and experienced the trip. It is intended that the applicant describe some of the activities that would happen and the impressions the participant will leave and gain, as well as list what he or she likes and dislikes about going abroad. The letter must be at least 150 words in length and should reflect the participant's mastery of a foreign language.

A student must then submit a transcript. The appraisal forms, personal application, foreign language letter and transcript should all be sent to The Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages for High School Students. Applicants should use priority mail rather than certified, registered or express mail. It is recommended that applicants keep photocopies of the completed application and that appraisers also have photocopies of the appraisals; therefore, anything that is lost can easily be replaced. If accepted into the program, the participant must mail in a health form.

Traveling abroad is an enriching experience that many can only dream of, but with the IU Honors Foreign Exchange Program and enough perseverance, the dreams of some travel-minded students may finally become a reality.

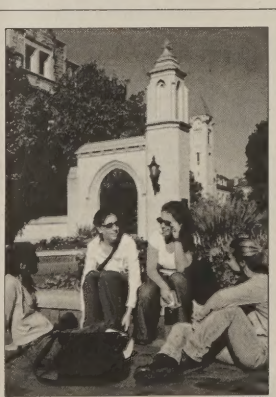

PHOTO WWW.INDIANA.EDU

Students meet in between classes at Indiana University's Bloomington campus. The college's Honors Foreign exchange program picks 30 students from across the nation to study for seven weeks overseas.

Campus Life kicks off with oddball contests

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
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On Monday, Sept. 14, Campus Life held its annual kickoff meeting, comprised of fine Italian cuisine, limitless refreshments and a wide array of character-building games. The night's activities were housed at the humble abode of Trent (12) and Caroline (10) Cooper.

"My family and I have been involved with Campus Life since I was in middle school, and the directors thought our backyard would be a great spot to host the first meeting of the year," Trent said.

The evening commenced with a few minutes devoted to the individual meandering of Campus Life students, allowing one to acquaint himself or herself with fellow attendees, via such activities as a lovely game of corn hole, two-hand touch football, basketball or innocent side conversation. Students were then seated together, where subsequent group activities were led by Liz Adams, Campus Life Director. The remaining hours of the evening consisted of organized team games, including "Toilet Tag," "Monkey on my Back" and "Ships and Sailors."

"My favorite game was the diaper-eating contest," Shelby Bell (11) said. "It was pretty nasty, when you think about it, but at the same time it was really funny to watch. The diaper-eating contest consisted of eight contestants, grouped in four teams of two, who attempted to eat eight Tootsie Roll candies mixed into chocolate pudding out of a relatively clean diaper.

Also present at the kickoff was a private DJ from RemedyFM, a local Christian web-based radio station designed to help assist teens through life and its inevitable hardships—a similar mission statement to that of Campus Life and its desired success throughout the community.

Meetings are held at a different location every Monday evening. The next public rendezvous is scheduled for 8-9 p.m. at the old YMCA building off of Homestead Road.

"Topics for next week include a group conversation about how life does not always go as planned, and how students can cope with these unplanned occurrences," Adams said. "And, of course, we will be playing exciting games and having lots of fun."

Literary fiction more modern than thought by high school peers

Many a student has dipped a tentative toe into the broad spectrum of classic literature required for class reading, only to be repelled by the antiquated customs of the characters and the dense text. The enterprise of deciphering these tomes may seem futile, but let me be the first of many bookworms to reassure you- the classics are far from outdated or insignificant, and the characters are far more accessible than one may believe.

What storybook personage is more tangible to students than the notorious Holden Caulfield? His directionless wanderlust as he drifts aimlessly through back alleys is nothing if not similar to the roving fashion in which we meander about Jefferson Pointe on balmy summer nights. Holden Caulfield exhibits the feelings of indecision and uncertainty that every student has felt at some point when considering the course of his or her adult life, and his bizarre odyssey across the city of New York is a striking parallel to the journey of self-discovery that every teenager must experience. Holden Caulfield is the consummate everyman to college students and teenagers around the world, the proverbial literary household name whose wacky quest continues to define generations.

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
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And what of spirited Elizabeth Bennet, strong-willed Jane Eyre, witty Anne Elliot? Certainly I am not the only girl at Homestead who swoons over the sophisticatedly enigmatic Mr. Darcy, the intensely peculiar Mr. Rochester and the sensitively gallant Captain Wentworth? I shudder to think of any self-described feminist who hasn't read the empowering tales of the feisty, vivacious women who all but gave birth to that very movement. In a world in which chauvinism is waning and yet far from extinct, I find myself inspired by the narratives of these intrepid, heroic women, who spawned the concept of love as a partnership rather than a dominant institution. The characters' bold, innovative influence has encouraged myriad women since their inception.

Who better to evoke fond memories of childhood than the whimsically manipulative Tom Sawyer and the shrewd Huckleberry Finn? Their rakishly boyish schemes and capricious pursuit of legendary treasure are nothing if not an ode to the fantastical make-believe that we all experienced as children.

Perhaps the heady enchantment of perusing eloquent texts or the enthralling fascination of witnessing a character's long-awaited epiphany is an experience limited to bibliophiles such as myself, but while the turn-of-phrase may be old-fashioned, the characters are timeless, and they enduringly transcend generations.

Charles Eliot once said that books are "the quietest and most constant of friends." While I couldn't agree more, I must contest that the characters are as much our companions as the books themselves; I have whiled away many a dull hour in the company of Anna Karenina, and Dorian Gray has taught me nothing if not to value my youth rather than spend it wishing that I were older. Rather than shelve the reading that is assigned in English class, take a page from the characters' books -- you may find that they have more to offer than you realize.

Adrienne Westenfeld's column will appear every issue on Page 5A of The Spartana. *In this confusing world of assigned literature, she hopes to crystalize the most dreaded pages. If you have a reading assignment that is driving you crazy, e-mail Westenfeld at life@thespartana.net and she will try to answer your questions in her next column.*

THE SPARTANS WEAR HEELS

Students don feminine footwear for walk raising sexual, domestic abuse awareness

HANA SVETLOVICS
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Common proverbs meant to provide insight into everyday problems are rarely intended to be taken literally. When it is said to be "raining cats and dogs," a glance out the window reveals a large amount of rain, as opposed to a shower of house pets. In an attempt to raise awareness and promote prevention of sex crimes, 485 of local males, including members of the swim team, donned red high-heeled shoes and participated in the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event on Saturday, Sept. 12.

With its first walk in 2001, "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: The International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence" has since been involved in several marches across North America; six marches alone have been scheduled in Indiana throughout 2009.

This year's event marked the second time "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" occurred in Fort Wayne. Proceeds of $104,000 from the local walk were donated in full to the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau, a non-profit agency affiliated with the United Way.

"100% of the collections went to the Women's Bureau," Denice Beights, Director of Development, said. "The money is used for [increasing] rape awareness, counseling and proactive services for kids."

Last year, 96 rapes were reported to the Fort Wayne Police Department; research indicates that only one in ten rapes are ever reported, so it is possible that there were many more. The walk is hoped to help develop a sense of community responsibility for the prevention of these crimes.

Spartan swimmers participated in the event this year, some for the second time, along with students in criminal justice classes at Anthis Career Center. The minimum amount of money required to participate was $30; this fee covered the cost of the shoes and a t-shirt.

"It was quite fun, let's put it that way," Patrick Smith (12), member of the swim team, said. "It was a great team effort; nearly everyone from the team was there and the cause we were supporting was great."

Although the walk lasted only 45 minutes, a new respect for high-heel-wearing women was found by numerous walkers.

"High heels are uncomfortable to walk in, and I definitely give women a lot more credit," Sawyer Zirbel (12), Anthis student, said. "But I never felt more beautiful in my own skin."

Along with the main walking event at Headwaters Park, there was also a "Hoops in Heels" 3-on-3 basketball game and an obstacle course for participants to go through. The course, a challenge for the male participants, was simply a race consisting of daily chores: pushing a stroller, carrying groceries and walking up and down stairs were all stages.

Regardless of the cause, it takes a certain amount of humility for a man to wear women's shoes in public. Stepping up to the challenge by breaking out of their comfort zones were local icons Curtis Smith of television's Indiana News Center and Shady Spencer of radio station WILD 96.3. While famous faces got the word out, the walk would not have been a success without the number of average citizens who participated.

"There were groups of families and friends, businessmen, factory workers; everyone came out," Smith said. "People would look at us funny, and it was fun to see people's reactions and [the] excitement that everyone had when they were there."

PHOTO BY TATIANA SVETLOVICS

1. The swim team after completing their mile smile for not only specators, but lalso for ocal newspaper journalists and photographers needing stories.

2. Nicholas Litchin (10) and Jacob Cook (10) line up with the team and listen as the opening presentation for the cause prepares the participants for the mile.

3. The boys model their socks and heels combos for the women, parents, and friends at the event.

Jane Austen interests boosted by assigned readings in class

Teachers cite author's unconventional characters as attractions

ELANA MERRITT
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Even though Jane Austen's novels were written in the early 19th century, her books have continued to captivate people around the world, primarily young women. People are largely aware of the fact that Austen's writings, which include Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility, are beloved classics and have been popular since their publication two centuries ago, but many do not realize that Austen's novels are presently experiencing a revival.

Some might wonder why Austenian literature has recently become so popular in the modern era. One explanation might be the parodies of Austen's novels that have brought hype to the books, targeting a younger audience that would not be as likely to pick up Austen's novels on their own. In March of 2009, Pride and Prejudice and Zombies was released, setting the online world of Austen fans on fire. The book takes the timeless storyline from Austen's book and adds zombies and ninjas into the mix, appealing to many teenagers worldwide. The same publishing company that released that book recently released another parody entitled Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters, which is bringing even more publicity to Austen's novels.

There have also been numerous books written as sequels to Pride and Prejudice. Some examples are Mr. Darcy's Diary, which narrates the original tale from the perspective of the mysterious character Mr. Darcy, and The Pemberley Chronicles, which entails the continuation of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy's marriage. These books also bring new readers to Austen's work as people realize how interesting her characters are and see them evolve from another author's viewpoint.

Although the parodies and sequels have brought new attention to the books, young women are gravitating toward them for reasons other than the revival.

"Girls enjoy them because they are about underdogs and the plight of women. The character marries for status and holds out for love. These ideas run opposite to [social norms of] the times. With the economy the way it is, readers are looking for a happy ending, which Jane Austen's books have," Steven Clough, English teacher, said.

"Pride and Prejudice is about an attraction of opposites with different social classes, and this generation desires to break stereotypes," Jamie Smith, English teacher, said.

Not only are Austen's works more popular around the world among an adult audience, but Spartan students are enjoying Austenian literature as well.

"I noticed that students who were exposed to the books while taking AP Literature were able to understand the humor of Austen's writing more and were more likely to read them outside of class. Another reason why [they're] popular is because the female heroines are usually very intelligent and the narrator's voice is feminine, clever and witty," Scott Hill, English teacher, said.

"After movies like Becoming Jane, people decided to read Austen's books because the movies were so good," Varsha Venkat (10) said. "I like her style and language. It's really refined. I also liked her characters and how they're not stereotypical."

Austen's writings have captivated young women worldwide, and the longevity of her books has proved just how enduring a work of literature can be.

RHETORIC REVIVAL

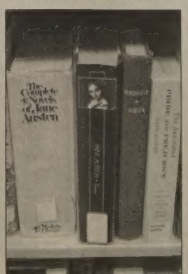

PHOTO BY BEN MICHELI

The following are the positions of Austen's novels on Amazon.com's bestseller list. Their sales rank is relative to all books sold by the online retailer.

PHOTO WWW.AMAZON.COM

#1,894: "Pride and Prejudice"

#3,667 "Favorite Jane Austen Novels"

#4,939: "Persuasion"

#30,043: "Emma"

#37, 218: "Sense and Sensibility"

Three Jane Austen novels are stocked at the Aboite branch of the Allen County Public Library. While the library typically shelves the majority of Austen's standalone works, her anthologies are checked out more often.

the SPARTANA CONTACT US

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WRITE: Send all letters to:

Publications Department
Homstead High School
4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46814

All letters will not be returned to the original sender. Letters to the Editor may be edited for grammar, clarity or brevity.

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Picture yourself at IPFW
I came to IPFW because it's awesome!
Kearstyn Keiler - Woodlan HS, '09 Woodburn, Ind. (left)
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SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

No, this picture wasn't taken from spring break. The student section decided on having a beach theme for the game last Friday. All of the painters sported swim trunks, and Ben Hazen (12) one-upped the rest by wearing his flippers to the game. The rest of the students were encouraged to wear beach attire – many students were seen wearing goggles. snorkels and classy bathing suits.

SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET

Spartans aim to return to state championship

By Conor Osborne-Price
Writer - staff@thespartana.net

State: the main goal of every athletic team in Indiana and every athlete's dream. This year is no different with the Homestead boy's soccer team. With a state run last year and coming very close in recent years, they hope to reenact last season's state run. This year's hopeful state run is led by seniors Thomas Ault (12), Justin Hanford (12), Keegan Harkenrider (12) and Connor McMahon (12).

"This year, every senior is doing his own job to help this team succeed," Hanford said. Needless to say, Hanford has done more than his share by becoming the all-time state career leader in shut outs during his four years at Homestead. Hanford has only been starting regularly for the last three years, which makes his accomplishment more of an impressive feat than it already is. And on the other side of the field, Ault is leading the team with nine goals.

"I'm glad that I broke the record, but winning games, along with the state championship, is most important to me." said Hanford.

Hanford recently broke the record against conference rival Bellmont. Even though breaking a state all-time record is a great accomplishment, a state championship means the most to Hanford and the rest of the team.

The only way this team will have hopes of making it to state is if it can fill big holes in the starting line-up after Grant Welter ('09) and Brent Helton ('09) leaving-- both who received scholarships to IPFW this fall.

"Losing [Welter] and [Helton] was a heart-breaker, but we feel like we plugged in the right people to fill their spots," Ault said.

With or without heart-break, this year's team seems to be determined to be on pace for state, with only three losses to top ten schools, those of which they wont face until the state tournament. Although the Spartans were recently shut out by highly ranked Noblesville 2-0, the team is still confident that they will be able to perform well this postseason.

Last year, the team made an incredible state run, but fell one game short in a loss to Evansville Memorial, 1-0. Evansville Memorial was the state champion the previous year, and the Spartans will likely have to face them if they make a state run this season. The difference between this year's team compared to last year's is that they know how to regroup if something during the game goes wrong. The team needs to be mentally and physically prepared to handle anything that comes at them with grace and finesse.

"The only reason we felt like we didn't win it all last year was because we sort of self-destructed, and hopefully this year will be different," Harkenrider said.

The team greatly appreciates when fans show up, and the numbers prove that fans can make the difference. Having screaming support in the stands can intimidate the opponent to a point where they can make unintentional mistakes. Consequently, not having support in the stands can destroy a team's confidence, morale and desire to stay in the fight.

"Our team's attitude is extremely dependent on how much support we have from the fans," Hanford said. "[The fans] have had great turnouts this season so far, and I hope these numbers continue all the way to state."

The team plans to achieve this goal and be holding a trophy above their heads reading "2009 Indiana Boy's Soccer State Champions."

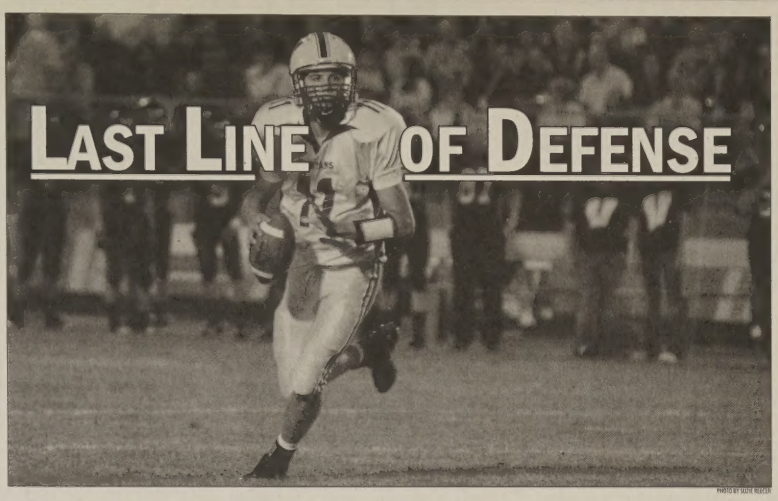

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Quarterback Zach Terrell (10) looks up field to pass the ball during last Friday's game. Going into tonight's game, the Braves and the Spartans are tied for first place.

Defense prepares for conference rivals

By Max Isroff
Business Manager - business@thespartana.net

As another football season begins, the Spartan squad is once again the team to beat in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC). In fact, Norwell Coach Jeff Miller stated earlier this season that "you always have to start with Homestead," when referring to NHC conference play. Miller seems to be right; for the past two seasons, the Spartans have gone undefeated in conference play, and if they hope to do it again this season, the defense is going to have to step up tonight in a game against rival Bellmont.

The Spartans are 2-0 in conference play this year, with wins at East Noble and at home against Columbia City. However, the Spartans are going to have to take their play to a whole new level tonight if they hope to walk off the field with a win. The defense, which had problems in the first games of the year, will have to make adjustments when they match up against Bellmont senior running back Nick Hall. Last year the Braves, who are also currently undefeated, averaged 300 yards on the ground each game.

Core linebackers Joey Dynako (12), AJ Terry (12), Brad Mills (11) and Sam Nussbaum (11) understand the challenge that they will face.

"We will watch a lot of film on [Bellmont's] running game," Mills said. "But most of our preparation will come in practice where we can actually prepare by seeing their offense and figuring out the position we need to get in to make plays."

Mills points out that if the defense can avoid the up and down play that has plagued them during the first three games of this season, they can contain Bellmont's running attack. During their first two games against rivals Huntington North and Warsaw, and even through the first half of the game against East Noble, the defense was criticized for not playing at the caliber of which they are capable. However, at halftime, the team flipped a switch and the defense shut down the East Noble offense that had previously matched the offensive efforts of the Spartans.

"After we stepped it up at East Noble, we came into the game [against] Columbia City with more confidence and we stepped it up again. I believe it was a key factor in our win," Mills said.

The Braves know that tonight is the biggest game of their year. Not only is this their homecoming game, but cheerleaders and two players from the Indianapolis Colts will be in attendance because Bellmont won the state title last season. It would be no surprise if they sell out tonight's game, which is why the football team is calling for its students to travel to Decatur to cheer on the Spartans.

"It's a 45 minute drive and we understand its a long way away, but having our fans at our away games is always huge for our team's confidence, especially when the other team brings out all the stops like Bellmont is [doing]," Anthony Mullen (12) said. "It's going to be a loud stadium in Decatur on Friday and it would be a huge confidence booster if some of those cheers were for us."

HEAD-TO-HEAD MATCHUP

Coach: Rick Burkhalter	Coach: Chad Zolman
Current record: 4-0 (2-0)	Current record: 4-0 (2-0)
Points scored: 158	Points scored: 160
Points allowed: 33	Points allowed: 69
NHC titles: 0	NHC: 11
Player to watch: Nick Hall (12)	Player to watch: Jake Weber (10)

New volleyball coach uses experience to drive team

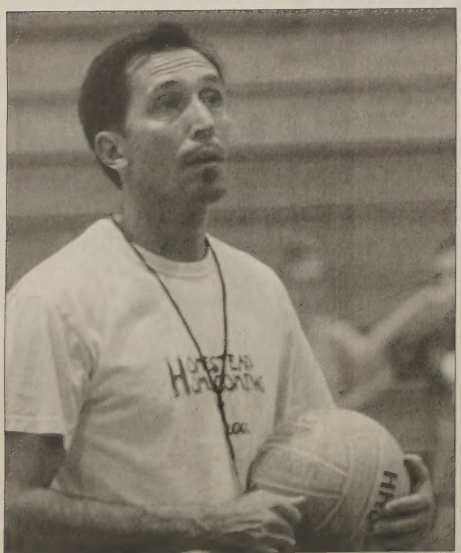

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Varsity coach Kent Mitchell is currently in his eleventh year of head coaching. He previously coached the Concordia Cadets to two state championship appearances, and hopes for success in conference play during his first year of coaching the Lady Spartans.

By Andy Franklin
Copy Editor - copy@thespartana.net

With the beginning of a new school year comes the beginning of another season of Spartan volleyball. Along with the varsity team's routine two-a-day workouts and ball-handling drills, however, came a change: new head coach Kent Mitchell. Despite getting off to a rocky start with a 3-5 record, the team is making strides, as evidenced by an exciting five-set match with state-ranked Bishop Dwenger.

Having never played volleyball competitively, Mitchell's path to his current coaching position is quite interesting. He attended IPFW with Olympic gold medalist Lloy Ball and became friends with many male and female volleyball players. After they encouraged him to attend their games, he became enamored with the sport. Subsequently, his daughter joined a local volleyball league at the age of ten. Her team needed a coach and Mitchell volunteered.

"After that, I knew I needed to really learn more about the sport, so I started attending coaching clinics done by great volleyball coaches," Mitchell said. "I believe that to improve you must always surround yourself with people better than you."

As he improved as a coach, Mitchell took over the head position at Concordia High School, leading them to the state tournament twice over a span of ten years. He left Concordia after the 2007-2008 season to take a break from coaching. However, after Homestead volleyball coach Lydia Gard left after last season, the team began to look for a new coach.

"We knew Mr.. Mitchell had been a volleyball coach, and we bugged him every day for months until he finally agreed to coach us," Taylor Chin (12), member of the varsity team, said.

Mitchell's transition to head coach has been helped by assistant coach Sherri Furniss, who helped coach the Spartans last year, and junior varsity coach Ty Bianski, who was Mitchell's assistant at Concordia. However, the switch has had its obstacles, as the team has faced five losses out of eight games, though the squad has shown great promise in wins over Wayne, Elmhurst and Marion.

"Our team is somewhere between okay and good," Mitchell said. "We must continue to improve so we can put ourselves in a position to be competitive at the end of the season."

The team seems like it is on the right track, as they are getting better each game. On Thursday, Sept. 3, the Spartans played 6th-ranked Bishop Dwenger.

In a shocking manner, the Spartans, viewed as overmatched underdogs, took the game to five sets, finally succumbing to defeat only in the exciting final set. A rowdy student cheering section energized the team, and the team showed just what they were capable of.

"The Dwenger game was really exciting because it showed how well we can play," Elena Schmidt (12), member of the varsity team, said. "We played really hard and we keep on improving; our team has really great chemistry too, so that helps a lot."

The team is looking to improve upon its performance against Bishop Dwenger and turn their season around.

With Mitchell at the helm and talented seniors Chin, Schmidt, Katelyn Waters (12), Michelle Bollinger (12) and Emily Mungovan (12) leading the team, the squad's outlook for the end of the season is positive.

"I think we've got the opportunity this year to win our first sectional title since 1973," Mitchell said. "We've got a lot of work to do; I'm teaching them a lot of things they've never even heard before. But we've got a pretty talented group of girls, and I think we can be a good team."

Staffers to challenge school's top athletes

With the beginning of a new year comes new responsibilities; as you can see, I'm now The Spartana's Sports Editor, and with that title comes what seems like a new challenge for each issue. A lot has changed since last year; along with the new online version of The Spartana, Max Isroff (11) has started the uphill battle of recording podcasts with a mix of athletes and students about sports at Homestead. He's also hopefully going to try to start updating sports scores live on the website. I felt like the site was missing something and almost out of nowhere, one of my greatest ideas ever floated into my head.

By Joe Hanauer
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

With only the slightest bit of motivation from the new hit T.V. show "Shaq Vs." and an idea from Chris Ray's ('09) eating contest last year, I wondered what would happen if Max and I challenged the best athletes at Homestead. After nearly a week of discussion, we decided that our first event would be to challenge the football team's punter Dan Vandegriff (11), and we hope to challenge most of the fall athletes in the progressing weeks. Hopeful competitions include a two-on-one against a tennis player, a round of golf with a female golfer and a race against a cross country runner.

Stepping back onto the football field for the first time since my "black-stripe" years of P.A.L. football felt good. It's not the same as stepping onto the baseball field by any means, but being able to compete against any athlete makes my day. Max and I decided to split the competition up into three different segments. First, we would try to punt the ball as close as we could to the goal line without going over, then we would try kicking field goals, and after that we would see who had the best overall punting distance.

Dan started out by kicking a few warm up punts; he kicked it so high, I was thankful there weren't any planes flying over that afternoon. After the first event, we decided to call it a draw, because for the sake of the challenge, we made Dan move back ten yards, and the strange bounces made it unfair (but for the record, I beat Dan by four yards). Next, we kicked field goals, and we moved five yards back each kick. Max couldn't hit the field goal from 15 yards, but to my amazement, I was actually able to hit a 25 yard field goal. Going from being the kid who was too fat to carry the ball in fifth grade to hitting an actual field goal on my first try was enough excitement for my entire week.

For the final part of the competition, we tried to punt it as far as we could and record the distance on the fly. Max's punt was recorded at 20 yards; I booted mine about 32 yards, give or take. Seeing as Dan actually punts for the football team, I figured a torn ACL during the middle of his kick would be our only chance of winning this competition. The hang-time of his punt was 18.6 seconds, or so it seemed, and the kick sailed 55 yards, crushing both Max's score and mine.

After a handshake with Dan, Max and I had to face the sad reality that we weren't as good as we thought we were, and we may never actually beat any of the athletes that we face. Sure, maybe a miracle will happen one of these days, and you should always give the underdog a fighting chance. Well, unless it's Max and I.

Preseason hard work beginning to pay off for cross country team

By Joe Hanauer
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

From the hottest days of June to the warm summer days of mid-September, the Spartan cross country teams seem to have gotten off on the right foot at the beginning of the season. The squad has been practicing since June, and team members say that they feel like they're in full stride halfway through the season.

The varsity boys' team's new head coach Ian Wilson has been working with the team all summer. Wilson is in his first year as head coach, but he has been an assistant coach over the past four years.

With the loss of last year's front-runner Meghan Terrell ('09), who has been replaced by Sara Hoppe (12), the members of the varsity girls' team know what they need to do to make it far into the postseason. Both teams have gained momentum since the Marion Invitational.

"We've all been working really hard at practice every day, some of us since June, and it's so awesome to see everyone's efforts pay off in a great race," Lauren Purlee (10) said.

> "We've all been working really hard at practice every day, some of us since June, and it's so awesome to see everyone's efforts pay off in a great race."
>
> **LAUREN PURLEE (10)**
> *Cross Country Runner*

The boys' team placed 2nd at the Marion Invitational, while the girls' team placed 3rd. Kodi Mullins (11) broke 16 minutes in the three-mile race with a time of 15:59, and placed 2nd overall.

With the season coming to an end within the next few weeks, both teams know what it's going to take to keep competing after the regular season. Their hard work and team unity, built during optional practices over the summer, give teams the extra boost that some other teams are missing.

"Our team has three main goals for the season: to win conference, sectionals and make it to state. This year's team can do big things, and our coach Ian Wilson knows it and is trying his best to help us reach those goals," Christian Clark (11) said.

the twitter 'TARY

From the frequent River Dance touchdown celebrations to the Future Hall of Fame Jacket, Chad Ochocinco has always been one of the top NFL personalities to ever play football. This year, Ochocinco was attempting to give fans an inside look throughout NFL games with constant Twitter updates while he is playing.

"While every coach has their own rules [regarding the use of electronics during team functions I would hope every coach would stress not using cell phones on the coach's time," Former coach and current Athletic Director Joe Updegrove said.

The Spartana staff, inspired by Ochocinco's creativeness, wanted to give readers the inside look on last Friday's game against Columbia City. Understandably, players were not able to Tweet during games, but they were able to give us their thoughts about specific plays during the game after plays ended. Starting linebacker A.J. Terry (12), and Coach Zolman give us their thoughts on what happened after key plays.

What are you doing? **140**

@ the football game...

hhs_spartana--Official kick-off time 7:01

A.J. Terry: Can't wait to come after their offense. Would really like to get to their Quarterback a couple times and make things happen

hhs_spartana--first down on the first play, which way, that way.

hhs_spartana--11 yard pass to Haruff, HHS 7_ CC-0

Coach Zolman: Zach Terrell executed the play really well. It was a really good pass and Harruff always tends to go get the pass. Great start to game.

hhs_spartana--Interception by Nussbaum, ball on 25.

Coach Zolman: Nuss' pick is a huge momentum changer. It got us a really short field to work with

hhs_spartana--9 yard pass to Duval, HHS:14-CC:0.

hhs_spartana--9 yd. corner pass to Haruff, HHS:21-CC:0.

hhs_spartana--End of the second quarter, HHS:21-CC:0.

hhs_spartana--1 yd. run up the middle by Appenzeller, HHS:28-CC:0.

hhs_spartana--Screen pass to Appenzeller, scored from the 50 yd. line, HHS:35-CC:0.

Coach Zolman: Pretty good play. Appenzeller used his blocks real well to take it all the way

hhs_spartana--Interception, "pick 6", by Nussbaum, HHS:42-CC:0.

A.J. Terry: Fellow linebacker just took it to the house. TOUCHDOWN.

hhs_spartana—Halftime bring on the band, HHS: 49-CC:0.

A.J. Terry: Even though we are up so by so much I hope I play the second half, we crushed for two quarters

Coach Zolman: Two good quarters. Told the team that we didn't want a let down and to stay focused for the second half

hhs_spartana--43 yd. pass to Duval, HHS: 49-CC:0.

hhs_spartana--93 yd. run by Weber, HHS:56-CC:0.

A.J. Terry: Good run and a good last score.

hhs_spartana--Final Score, HHS:56-CC:0. 252 total push-ups done by the painters.

Coach Zolman: Was a really satisfying win. We really executed our game plan really well. Heard that Bellmont won, start prepping for them for next week's game.

Soccer player kicks it abroad

Alex Moore travels to Sweden to represent United States

By Jalen Prewett
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

While most students spend their summer lying around the house counting down the days until school starts, Alex Moore (10) spent his summer a bit differently. Despite the fact that he was only coming off of his freshman year, Moore was fortunate enough to represent the United States in Sweden, while his soccer team and over 1,000 others battled it out on the pitch. More than 60 nations were involved in the Gothia Cup, and the tournament lasted several weeks. Moore and his team finished in the top 32 overall in the tournament. With the experience of a lifetime, Moore now plays for the Spartans and takes the intensity he had during his summer tournament into each game. This wasn't an average summer by any means.

> "I knew that I had to play well because I was playing for such a high-caliber team."
>
> **ALEX MOORE (10)**
> *Soccer Player*

"It was really intense [playing in Sweden]. I knew that I had to play well because I was playing for such a high caliber team," Moore said. "All of the other players helped each other excel to become better athletes. The team was really able to bond while we were together."

Although Moore has had success playing overseas, he had a major setback during one of his Homestead games last year.

"I was playing at DeKalb in the sectional game, and I dislocated my knee. My thigh bone actually went through my knee," Moore said.

Any major knee injury to an athlete could end his or her career. When surgery is needed, the athlete might not be able to compete for several months. But with rehabilitation, Moore's injury was able to heal over time.

"Obviously it looked pretty bad, and when the doctor said I needed surgery I didn't think I would be able to play as well as I had before," Moore said.

In the final games of last season, Moore recovered enough to play the last few games on the junior varsity team, a feat that is remarkable after an athlete sustains such an injury. Now almost a year later, after playing in Sweden for the Gothia Cup, Moore plays with the skills that he has gained and the additional tips he learned over the summer. He now focuses on playing for Homestead and maybe catching the eye of a few college scouts. Scouts look for players like Moore who are able to play in pressure situations. Players who are able to represent the country on an international level are definitely going to stand out in a scout's report.

"I would love to get a scholarship to be able to play in college. Being able to play after high school has been one of my goals," Moore said. "I would really like to play at a soccer school like Indiana University."

Moore's hope of playing for a college like Indiana University could be a likely possibility, especially he is able to keep advancing his athletic skills and stay away from injuries. Moore is poised to have a great year for Homestead, and with talent like his, the sky is the limit.

PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

Sophomore Alex Moore competed in the Gothia Cup in Sweden over the summer.

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HOSTED BY MAX ISROFF

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the NEXT65

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY PATRICK SMITH

The Next 65 highlights events and things to do for the weekend. Reviews of current movies, concerts listings, upcoming theatrical productions and cultural festivals such as The Bluffton Street Fair are all here. These events are all within a two-hour drive of Fort Wayne. Get some friends together and take advantage of what the region has to offer. Use these 65 hours, from 3 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday, wisely.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

Tradition planted in 35th Johnny Appleseed event

Annual festival recreates 19th century with food, entertainment inspired by folk legend

By Molly Zweig
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

Fort Wayne always has been captivated by the legendary appeal of John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. Even the mascot and name of the Fort Wayne's new baseball team, the Tincaps, highlights the man famous for helping grow apple trees throughout the Midwest. But excitement is growing for the greatest tribute of them all: the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

Taking place this weekend at Johnny Appleseed and Archer Parks, adjacent to the Memorial Coliseum, the free festival highlights the life and times of John Chapman in the 1800s. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, vendors will come from all over the region to sell period-appropriate crafts, foods, and toys. The highlight of this festival for many, though, is the famous chicken and dumplings, prepared by the Spartan Alliance Marching Band.

"It's become a finely oiled machine," Tamara Sorg, coordinator of volunteers for the project, said. Sorg is responsible for organizing over 100 band parents and Key Club members who staff the stand.

The seeds for this event are planted very early, as the preparations begin far ahead of the festival. Band parent Natalie Bassett, co-chair, began ordering the vegetables, chicken, flour, and shortening needed to make the popular treats about a month before the event. Per festival rules, the recipe must be authentic and prepared in the same style pioneers would have used in the 1800s. Large kettles are used to cook the dumplings over a roaring fire as opposed to modern conveniences such as ovens.

In addition to the old-style cooking techniques, the volunteers must be outfitted in period-appropriate clothing. Sorg said that the band has about 100 costumes, hand sewn by a parent in 2003, for use during the festival.

"They're really hot and heavy clothes," Michael Bienz (10), who volunteered last year, said. All clothing from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries must be left at home. Men wear overalls, suspenders, and straw hats, while women wear dresses and aprons.

Sorg also said the primitive outpost serves about 8,000 dumplings over two days and is consistently one of the band's top fundraisers. Stopping at the stand has become a tradition for many.

"I look forward to going back and working there all year," Steve Batzka (12), another volunteer, said. He said he loves the dumplings and the atmosphere at the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

At the same time, the festival symbolizes Fort Wayne's heritage.

"Johnny's actually buried here," Bienz said. In reality, many members of the Chapman family are buried in Fort Wayne, but Johnny's burial site has not been confirmed.

"People enjoy learning more about our history," Ashlee Larkey (11) said. She said the historical accuracy of the festival is a huge draw for locals.

"It's a great opportunity for kids to learn more about pioneer days," Bassett said.

APPLES TO APPLES

What:
Johnny Appleseed Festival

Where:
Johnny Appleseed Memorial Park at 1502 Harry Baals Drive.

When:
Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 20 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parking:
Free Parking is available at Concordia High School and IPFW, and a shuttle service is provided from both of those locations for 50 cents each way.

PERFORMANCES

Rascal Flatts
Rascal Flatts will perform with Darius Rucker on a stop during the group's Unstoppable Tour tonight at 8 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Tickets are $67 or $51.75 and can be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000 or contacting the Coliseum's ticket office.

Friday Nites Live
Anonymous Blue director Todd Roth and his band Unlikely Alibi will perform during Friday Nites Live at Jefferson Pointe tonight. The free event begins at 6:30 p.m. Goodnight Gracie closes out this season of Friday Nites Lives next Friday, Sept. 25, also at 6:30 p.m.

The Piano Lesson"
"The Piano Lesson" continues its run at the Civic Theatre this weekend with shows tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday at 2 p.m. The show focuses on two siblings' struggle over a decision to sell their family's heirloom piano, which symbolizes the slavery of their ancestors. Tickets are $14 for students and $22 for adults.

Kenny Chesney
Kenny Chesney, along with Sugarland, Montgomery Gentry, Miranda Lambert and Zac Brown Band, will be performing at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Tickets range from $20 to $175 and can be purchased from Ticketmaster or the Lucas Oil Stadium ticket office.

Kings of Leon
Kings of Leon, with special guest Glasvegas, will grace the Verizon Wireless Music Center's stage on Friday, Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the Noblesville concert range from $26 for lawn seats to $290 for more deluxe seating arrangements. Call (317) 776-8181 or visit www.tickets.livenation.com for more information.

Snow Patrol
Snow Patrol will be performing with the Plain White T's at the Murat Egyptian Room in Indianapolis on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets are $27 in advance or $31 the day of the show and are available at www.tickets.livenation.com.

Bluffton Street Fair provides taste of adolescence

By Rachel Shinn
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

They watched the parade, ate elephant ears, drank lemonade shake-ups and played games designed for 8-year-olds. Some of them even won. Each year, Homestead students attend the annual Bluffton Street Fair held in mid-September. Widely unknown throughout southwest Allen County, the Bluffton Street Fair provides an outlet for students as they travel back to their younger years and enjoy a night of fun, music and dancing at this old-fashioned midway carnival.

Starting on September 22 and lasting through the 26th, the Bluffton Street Fair will celebrate its 99th fair this year. The fair kicks off at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning and will be open at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday. Having celebrated its first fair in 1898, it skipped a few years during World War I, World War II, and the Great Depression. It is the oldest street fair in Indiana, except for the State Fair. This year's fair has been designated the theme of "Childhood Dreams."

The event is known unofficially as "The World's Largest Free Street Fair." Each year, people of all ages flood the Bluffton streets to enjoy the rides, parades, live entertainment, and junk food.

For those looking for something more than "Junk Food Alley"-style dining and classic carnival games, Bluffton's Street Fair Band performs a concert each night. In addition, the High School Band Parade will take place on Wednesday and the High School Choral Contest will follow on Thursday.

For many schools around Fort Wayne, the Bluffton Street Fair is a time for choirs to showcase their talent. Whether their school is performing or not, students travel south to check out the competition. For Jake Jewson (11), watching the show choirs is one of the main reasons he goes.

"My favorite thing was enjoying the food vendors and watching the show choirs," Jewson said. "One time the stage was rocking and it looked like it was almost about to fall when Northrop got on."

Northrop's mixed show choir, Charisma, with about 45 members last year, has gained more members, bringing their total count to over 50 this year. Familiar with Northrop Charisma, Curtis Shaw, Homestead's choral director, encourages his students to attend.

"I like for the kids to go and see the other show choirs," Shaw said. "It gives us an idea of how the show choirs are going to look for the upcoming season. And it's fun."

While some enjoy watching the show choirs and waiting for someone to fall, students such as Rylie Pearson (11) attend for other reasons.

"I've been going every year since I was a kid because all of my family is from Bluffton," Pearson said. "Some people think it's corny and expensive, but when you live in Wells County, it's a tradition that everyone looks forward to."

With events for every age group, the Bluffton Street Fair has become an annual event for many. For some people, the carnival games and food never get old.

"My favorite game is the Mouse Game," Pearson said. "My friend Lexy goes with me every year and we always look forward to bringing a bunch of quarters to try and win the silly stuffed animals there."

COURTESY PHOTO

TAKE THREE

9 Rated PG-13
Coventry 13

Animated movies rarely offer more than talking animals, 3-D glasses and laughs for the kids. It is a shame that such an artistic medium has been primarily directed toward one demographic. However, producer Tim Burton has never been one to conform to standards, and his latest effort, "9," is a testament to animation's potential power when substance and style exist to support it.

The movie's concept of a robot apocalypse has existed since the early days of science fiction, but "9" is a new take on the idea. An excellent voice cast led by Elijah Wood helps bring the characters to life. The World War II allusions throughout the movie may be over most kids' heads, confirming the movie's slogan, "This is not your little brother's animated movie." "9" might be frightening to younger siblings, but anyone who has taken a history class will appreciate the struggles the characters face.

Overall, "9" proves that animated movies can be successful without being overly cute or gimmicky, and that a story can be larger than life even if the characters are only a few inches tall. – *Taylor Thompson*

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

COVENTRY 13: no longer costs $3.00 and 50 cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $3.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie. It's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

EXTRACT Rated R
Rave

Job shadowing might give students an idea of the future, but leave it to director Mike Judge to expose the horrors of the working world. After his cult classic "Office Space," Judge knows the workplace, and with "Extract," he turns corporate horror stories into comedic gold.

In "Extract," Joel (Jason Bateman) owns a company that makes artificial flavoring, but when a workplace accident occurs, his life's work is put in jeopardy. On top of all of this, Joel is pressured into taking drugs, adding to his already stressful situation.

A plot summary may give the guise of a drama, but Judge's ingenious use of moronic characters make the movie anything but serious. Most of the laughs are provided by the cast of antagonists, including David Koechner as a nosy neighbor and Ben Affleck as Joel's tablet-peddling friend. Koechner's character's fate easily becomes the highlight of the film.

Though "Extract" may not be as memorable as "Office Space," moviegoers will find enough flavor to leave a pleasant taste in their mouths. – *Taylor Thompson*

SORORITY ROW Rated R
Rave

What started as a vengeful prank soon ended deadly for the Theta Pi Sorority house in the horror film "Sorority Row." As five sisters are haunted by the memory of a joke gone wrong, acquaintances around of the sorority start to disappear mysteriously. Instead of bringing justice to their dead sisters, the girls decide to move on with their lives and try to forget about the incident altogether. But something – or someone – won't let them forget that easily. Starring Audrina Patridge and Rumer Willis, "Sorority Row" combines the values of true friendship and the price of breaking the sisterhood bond.

Although graphic and gruesome at times, the movie's thrilling scenes keep the audience interested and guessing until the final moments. The film's exciting ending makes up for the somewhat predictable plot. The girls' diverse personalities are balanced and differ from the stereotypical girly image of sorority sisters. With dark humor and chilling action, "Sorority Row" is a satisfactory kickoff to a season dedicated to horror movies, haunted houses and Halloween.– *Julianne Szostak*

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
The Fall Festival of Bands brought marching bands from as far as Indianapolis to the stadium for the annual full-day event. 2A

LIFE
As misinformation spreads about how to exactly tie-dye an article of clothing, a writer clarifies the debated process. 5A

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Staff members highlight the gritty details of their favorite haunted attractions in Fort Wayne. 8A

OPINION
The Ed Board decides that President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize, while certainly honorable, is too premature of a gesture. 3A

SPORTS
Varsity athletes share their experiences with abandoning their sport in pursuit of other commitments. 6A

ONLINE
Download archived issues, catch up on the video announcements and flip through unpublished photo galleries.

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PHOTO BY JACOB COOK

Catherine Cummiskey (10) completes the math subsection of the PSAT on Wednesday morning.

PSAT test-takers search for payoff in October exam

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, sophomores and juniors across the nation spent their morning taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, or PSAT/NMSQT. This test serves to qualify a small percentage of students for academic distinctions and scholarships, but because the test is not used in college admissions, many feel as though the test does not apply to them, and therefore do not take it seriously.

The College Board website cites a number of reasons to take the PSAT/NMSQT. The test illuminates a student's strengths and weaknesses, and indicates a student's performance relative to others nationally. The test also prepares students for the SAT, and opens a floodgate of mail from colleges. In addition, high-scoring juniors qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Because of the test's academic benefits, teachers and administrators strongly encourage every student to take full advantage of these opportunities by performing to their highest level possible.

The significance of the PSAT/NMSQT was highlighted during a recent advisory period. Faculty discussed the exam and distributed PSAT practice materials. A Tuesday morning video announcement featured counselor Tom Quigley discussing procedures for exam day.

"We, counselors and teachers, set a serious and consistent testing environment and set serious expectations," Quigley said.

When PSAT day rolled around, the excitement of seniors who were pursuing college visits and job shadows was in stark contrast to the begrudging sophomores and juniors who spent their morning sweating over test.

Many juniors felt the pressure of college admissions looming over their heads, and used this as an incentive to improve their score.

"Actually, this year I did try," Molly Quinn (11) said. "Last year I didn't try at all because I thought the English portion was too hard and I didn't feel like doing it when it wouldn't count for anything. I still struggled to get the English done on time this year, though."

For many, focusing for the three-hour PSAT proved difficult.

"I did try my hardest," Amanda Stephens (11) said. "But at times, especially toward the end, I wanted to get it over with. I had to tell myself to try harder so I'd be prepared for the SATs. I think everyone would take them more seriously if they counted for something, because most of us won't get scholarships."

For sophomores, who are not yet eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Competition, the PSAT was viewed as an exploratory test.

SEE 'PSAT DAY,' PAGE 2A

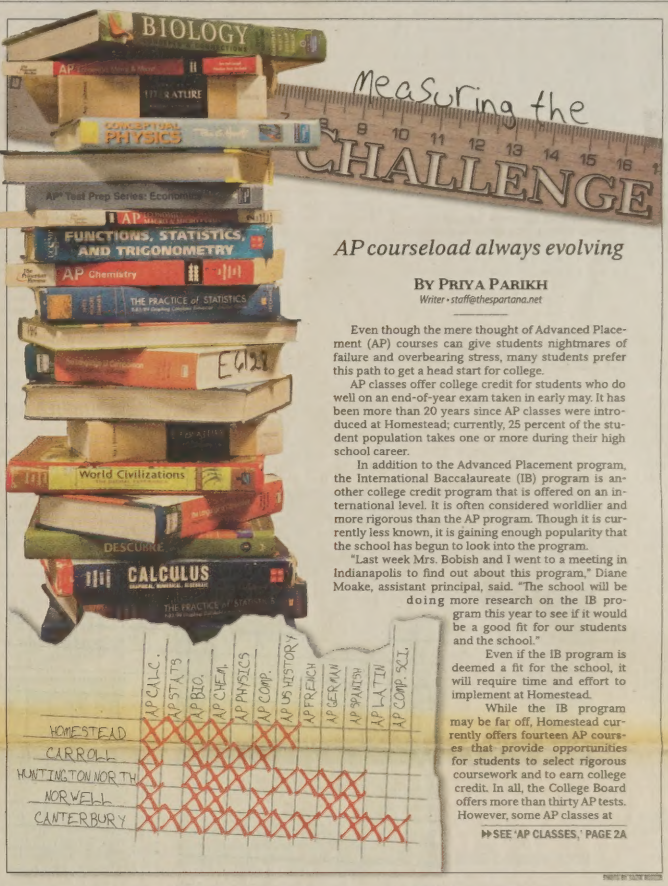


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

AP courseload always evolving

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Even though the mere thought of Advanced Placement (AP) courses can give students nightmares of failure and overbearing stress, many students prefer this path to get a head start for college.

AP classes offer college credit for students who do well on an end-of-year exam taken in early may. It has been more than 20 years since AP classes were introduced at Homestead; currently, 25 percent of the student population takes one or more during their high school career.

In addition to the Advanced Placement program, the International Baccalaureate (IB) program is another college credit program that is offered on an international level. It is often considered worldlier and more rigorous than the AP program. Though it is currently less known, it is gaining enough popularity that the school has begun to look into the program.

"Last week Mrs. Bobish and I went to a meeting in Indianapolis to find out about this program," Diane Moake, assistant principal, said. "The school will be doing more research on the IB program this year to see if it would be a good fit for our students and the school."

Even if the IB program is deemed a fit for the school, it will require time and effort to implement at Homestead.

While the IB program may be far off, Homestead currently offers fourteen AP courses that provide opportunities for students to select rigorous coursework and to earn college credit. In all, the College Board offers more than thirty AP tests. However, some AP classes at

SEE 'AP CLASSES,' PAGE 2A

2010 budget approved at $67.9 million

Taxpayers to chip in about 38 percent of total budget

The referendum still lingers in the minds of taxpayers, many of whom are wondering how money will be distributed in 2010. On Oct. 6, the Southwest Allen County Schools administration met to discuss the 2010 budget. The board meeting was open to the public, allowing taxpayers to contribute their opinions. The budget proposal was met with silent agreement from the public, and the school board will approve the 2010 budget on Oct. 20.

Jim Coplen, SACS business manager, said the 2010 budget is estimated at $67.9 million, which is about a 1.6% increase from the 2009 budget. About $25.5 million of the 2010 budget are to be paid by taxpayers, in comparison to the $22.5 million that were paid by taxpayers in the 2009 budget. This translates into a $60 increase in taxes for those living in homes assessed at $200,000.

"The 2010 budget is very similar to [the 2009] budget," says Coplen.

"The 2010 budget is very similar to [the 2009] budget."
JIM COPLEN
SACS Business Manager

Most of the budget will be used for general funds, capital projects, and the referendum past earlier this year. General funds, priced at about $40.5 million, will be paid by the state. This is a change from previous years, when the general funds consumed an average of $21.8 million in tax money. However, the money that is necessary to fund capital projects and the referendum will come from taxpayers. Passed last spring, the referendum is valued at $3.5 million.

SEE '2010 BUDGET,' PAGE 2A

Resource officer addresses oft-ignored school zone speed limit

Tinkle tries to 'hit the problem hard' to protect drivers

By Stephanie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

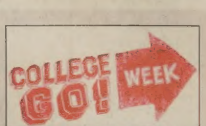
A speed limit sign is posted in the Homestead senior parking lot. Surrounding school grounds are similar signs, which indicate a school zone speed limit of 25 m.p.h. during certain hours. Resource officer Jeremy Tinkle admitted that he enforces the special restriction on a random basis.

It is well known that traffic coming to and from school can be a nightmare. The sheer amount of cars all trying to all go to the same place provides for some of the most stressful driving conditions on this side of town. As students try to rush to make the first bell or leave quickly to get to work, the easily spotted flashing school zone signs are often times ignored in the chaos.

The state of Indiana uses several tactics to try to make schools as safe as possible for students. Since the school first opened, Indiana state law requires blinking road signs around the school. These signs establish a certain area, called the school zone, where drivers have to drive 25 m.p.h. or less. The Indiana state law believes that 25 m.p.h. is the appropriate speed for people to drive in the school zone. During before and after school hours, these lights activate and start blinking which alerts drivers who are going by the school that

SEE 'SCHOOL ZONE,' PAGE 2A

REMINDER



SOURCE: WWW.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG

Statewide initiative to waive application fees concludes today

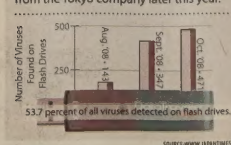
Today marks the end of a week-long campaign to promote higher education for Hoosier students. The Indiana Department of Education initiative, College GO! Week, offers to waive admissions costs for all in-state applicants.

Indiana colleges participating in the incentive program include Indiana University - Bloomington, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Purdue University - West Lafayette, Ball State University and dozens of other public and private institutions.

Virus on network halts flash drive usage

A PORT MISSION

The results of a 2008 survey conducted by Trend Micro Inc. reveal that viruses on flash drives are multiplying at a rapid rate. A similar report is expected to be released from the Tokyo company later this year.



SOURCE: WWW.JAPANTIMES.CO.JP

By Nathan Berning
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

School computers have gone haywire in the last few weeks as Homestead staff has worked to remove a virus that has infected many of the school's computers. Due to this virus, Homestead recently announced the ban on all flash drives for use within the school, causing anger to students who wish to use them.

The virus, which is believed to have spread throughout the school through the use of infected flash drives, infects individual computers. When a student logs on to a computer infected with the virus and saves a file to their pen drive, the next computer to which the flash drive is connected will catch the virus.

Benjamin Griffith (11) is a student whose personal computer was infected with the virus.

"The program embeds itself into the computer hard drive as a process that cannot be cancelled," Griffith said. "The purpose of the virus is to spread and it was created by someone who was very smart and had a lot of time on their hands."

Homestead technology specialist Sue Shreffler witnessed the virus firsthand after investigating what seemed to be routine problems.

"We first noticed that many of the computers in the IMC were acting strange," Shreffler said. "Once we realized that the virus was spreading through flash drives, we tracked it using McAfee Anti-virus. The virus was installing itself on school computers. We first noticed that computers infected with the virus would not shut down, or something else abnormal for computer behavior would happen. The majority of infected computers were concentrated in the IMC, so we were able to use McAfee Anti-virus to locate the problem. Then we re-imaged infected computers, which effectively removed the virus."

However, exterminating the virus

SEE 'FLASH DRIVE VIRUS,' PAGE 2A

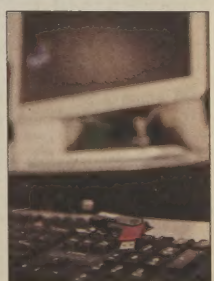


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

A flash drive rests on the keyboard of a workstation in the math computer lab.

BRIEFS

SENIOR YEARBOOK PHOTOS
In order to be included in the yearbook, seniors need to have their portrait taken at Prestige Photo Studio as soon as possible. This portrait is free of charge for the student and does not obligate the student to purchase any additional packages.

SECOND-SEMESTER HIGHER ED.
Higher Education students who are interested in continuing or starting classes at IPFW next semester should meet with Collegiate Connection counselor Ann Brown in room 316 during their lunch module on Oct. 20.

IU GROUPS PROGRAM
Application packets for the IU Groups program are available from Cindy Fitt in Student Services. This scholarship aids first-generation college students in being admitted to and attending the state university.

SAVE LIDS TO SAVE LIVES
Yoplait Yogurt will donate 10 cents to breast cancer research for every pink lid collected before the December deadline. Lids can be submitted in the nurse's office across from the library.

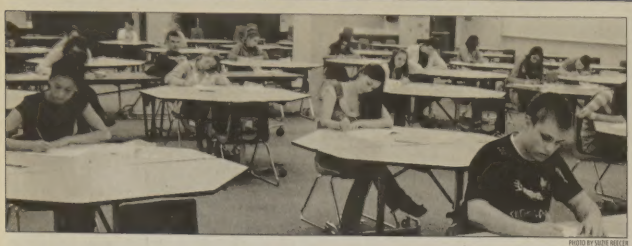


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

During the second week of last May, AP Psychology students gathered in the community room for their cumulative exam, which exceeded three hours and consisted of two different sections — multiple choice and free response. AP Psychology is one of the 14 AP classes Homestead currently offers.

▸▸AP CLASSES CONTINUED FROM 1A

Homestead have recently been removed.

"We no longer offer AP Computer Programming, which, when one of our teachers left, we really didn't have anybody who could step into that role," Amy Hamilton, AP coordinator at Homestead, said. "But we do have students who miss it who really want to take it. I don't foresee us getting that back."

"Five years ago, I started teaching AP European History with freshman block, but the last three years I have been teaching AP World History," Sara Wyss, AP and regular World History teacher said. "This was because the state requirement for students changed, and required freshman to take World History as opposed to European. So, European History was eliminated to make it easier for students to meet the state requirement. However, if the interest is there, AP European History should still be offered, but I don't think the interest is there."

Though AP Computer Programming and European History have been eliminated, other classes have been recently introduced at Homestead, or are in the process of being considered.

"We added an AP World History for sophomores and juniors outside of block, and we've turned Honors Government/We The People into an AP Government/We The People class," Hamilton said. "AP Physics is probably our most recent AP class [that has been approved], but we haven't even offered that yet because we haven't had enough people sign up for it. Right now we have only a few who want to test in either the art or music areas... We have most of the Spanish V class testing for Advanced Placement Spanish."

While Homestead may not currently offer all possible AP courses, it appears as though the administration has been proactive in offering the most popular courses, and does not feel the need to add more if the interest isn't there among the students.

"Adding a new course requires it being approved by the AP Audit process and this takes time," Hamilton said. "Obviously, it is possible to add new AP courses but it would be a decision that the high school administration would need to make."

Because so many AP classes are available, numerous students feel compelled to take these classes to get a head start for college and to boost their chances at admission by taking rigorous course loads.

"It's not that I prefer [AP classes]," said Jacob Cook (10). "I think the chance to earn college credit is one that can't be passed up, however, and I decided to take advantage of the opportunity."

The demands of a college level course means students must learn to overcome the tremendous workload.

"As a freshman, many upperclassmen always complained about the amount of homework that was given in those classes," Jaya Sharma (12) said. "And they were right, the work load is insane!"

Though AP classes require more effort than normal classes, motivated students will continue to choose them to jump-start their college career.

▸▸SCHOOL ZONE CONTINUED FROM 1A

they must slow down.

Overall, there are three signs located around the school: one set on Scott Rd. and Covington and another on Aboite and Homestead. These signs turn on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the morning and from 2 to 4 p.m. in the afternoon.

In charge of enforcing this law is school resource officer, Officer Tinkle, who has been working at Homestead for the last two years. Not only is Tinkle in charge of making sure everything runs smoothly on school grounds, he also randomly manages traffic control.

Tinkle does all he can to try to enforce the 25 m.p.h. speed limit as best as he can. There are many safety procedures to follow during school hours since students from Homestead and Summit are either walking or driving to and from school.

"I think it is a good idea for people to slow down when kids are walking so that [drivers] can pay more attention," Tinkle said. "I try to hit the problem hard."

The school zone area tends to be ignored by student drivers and parents. Students and parents have the tendency to just go the normal speed limit that is in effect during non-school hours. Even though someone believes they are not speeding because they are going the posted speed limit, in reality, they are.

This disregard for the school zone has been a continuous problem since the school zone policy was established. Most students believe the signs are pointless.

"I think the policy is stupid," Kaleigh Farkas (11) said. "It's not like anyone walks to school especially since Homestead is way earlier than the elementary schools. It takes longer to get to school and 25 m.p.h. is so slow."

Even though students have a problem with this law and some have been pulled over, there are others who have a worse problem with it. Tinkle reported most people he pulls over are adults, not student drivers. Nevertheless, this does not mean that students do not speed while they are driving in the school zone.

Apparently, there are a lot of students and adults that do not pay attention to the signs. Tinkle believes that if he goes out every day, he could catch at least one person speeding in the school zone.

"It is a waste because no one really follows the rule," Yessica Guzman (11) said. "I see a lot of students that still go faster than the limit."

▸▸FLASH DRIVE VIRUS CONTINUED FROM 1A

on IMC computers does not mean that the virus will not continue to spread. Any computer is able to get the virus, and it is likely that the flash drive ban will continue until the virus is completely gone. Therefore, students with flash drives should start to use the student network folder. Student folders are available at all times through the connections menu on the Homestead website, which provides instructions on how to access the network folders.

"We are advising all students to use the network folder option for storing files rather than using a USB thumb drive," Shreffler said. "This will allow students to access their network folders at home with an Internet connection."

At home, students can also work to avoid the virus.

"I used Norton Anti-virus to locate it," Griffith said regarding the virus. "My anti-virus program updates automatically, but it wasn't until early this week that it was able to locate the virus. I actually had to go into a lot of the files on my computer and delete them myself, which is a time consuming process. I was able to completely remove it from my computer in the end."

The virus is commonly referred to as a worm, which embeds into a computer and spreads via removable devices such as flash drives and iPods.

Taking precautions such as updating home anti-virus programs and following the schools new rule banning flash drives will go a long way towards virus free computers.

"When the virus is effectively removed from all school computers and stops spreading, students will be allowed to use flash drives once again," Laura Johnson, who works in the IMC, said of the new rule.

Meanwhile, it is a good idea not to download videos or open links from Facebook to other websites, as the virus is believed to originate from Facebook.

However, Facebook is not the only source of viruses. A virus can originate from any unsafe website from which the virus, disguised as a file, is downloaded. If the virus is detected on any computer, it is a safe idea either to delete the infected files or to ask someone who knows how to delete the files for assistance.

THE POINT OF PRACTICE

Of the **1.5 million** entrants to the National Merit Scholarship Program, about **3.3 percent** of test-takers qualify for recognition. Out of that portion — which is roughly equivalent to **50,000** students — **34,000** pupils receive Letters of Commendation. The other **third** of the qualifiers become semifinalists. Out of those **16,000** semifinalists, **1,000** are eliminated and the remaining **15,000** students are named National Merit Finalists.

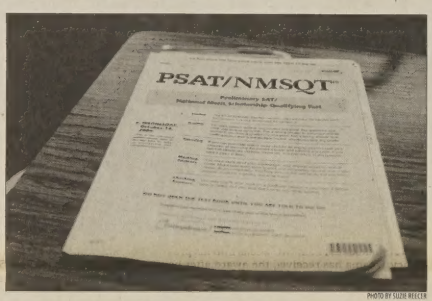


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

A PSAT exam booklet rests on a desk during the five-minute break following Section 2.

▸▸PSAT DAY CONTINUED FROM 1A

"I did my personal best on the PSATs because I wanted to see how my scores would turn out," Halle Shine (10) said. "Whenever I came across a question that required somewhat of an effort, I thought back to how my scores wouldn't matter, and I didn't really try on those particular questions. But there were some ridiculous questions."

Other test-takes agreed that their efforts softened when they encountered an arduous or lengthy section.

"I kind of took the PSATs seriously," Brie Herpst (10) said. "When it came to the English part and reading, I didn't want to read."

Despite Homestead's emphasis on the PSAT, many students claimed that the school "wasted" a day by devoting an entire morning to the test.

"It's stupid and I don't take it seriously at all," Tara Biehl (11) said.

Sophomores and juniors may envy the seniors who enjoyed a day of college visits and job shadows, while they carry disdain for having to take the PSAT. However, students need to realize that the test will benefit them when the real SATs and college applications loom around the corner.

SOURCE: WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM

▸▸2010 BUDGET CONTINUED FROM 1A

Capital projects will receive $9.3 million in the estimated 2010 budget. This money will go toward building maintenance and improvement, technologic services and improvement, and utilities.

A major plan presented during the meeting was the Bus Replacement Plan. The plan proposes that by 2021, the district will own 79 buses, 3 more than the district's current 76-bus fleet. The new buses will cost $135,000 each. Hence, $405,000 of the budget will be dedicated to the purchase of the three new buses. The district also intends to replace about 7 buses every year to "even out expenditures."

The district also intends to hire more teachers for kindergarten and for special education preschool. These changes are necessary to accommodate the growing school district, as recent kindergarten classes have become increasingly large.

Although there were some minor budget changes and new projects were proposed, the projected SACS budget remains stable and fairly unchanged from previous years.

DEBUNKING HOMESTEAD

Myth: Wikipedia requested that Homestead be blocked from its address as students were editing entries and posting illicit content on pages related to the school. The site was launched in 2001 and is currently the largest free encyclopedia online.

Status: True. According to network technology supervisor Mark East, Wikipedia did get in contact with the Community, Media and Technology (CMT) staff and asked for the names of students that were posting slanderous material. They then requested that the site be inaccessible from school computers. Had the site not been blocked on the server, Wikipedia would have indefinitely restricted Homestead's IP address.
– Hana Svetlovics

Intense preparation precedes band display

Event organizer: Hosting fall band festival 'costs a bunch'

BY LAURA ZENG
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

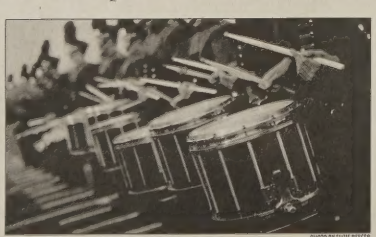


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Every night the drumline practices in the parking lot and on the field to prepare for the Friday nights as well as their weekend competitions. Their next showing is slated for Oct. 17, when the Spartan Alliance Marching Band will travel to Chesterton High School for the ISSMA regional competition.

While the dedication of Homestead Spartan Alliance Band members is apparent through practices and performances, the behind-the-scenes work of hosting a band competition is as great an undertaking. The band has gone above and beyond in their dedication this season and has hosted their own annual competition, the Fall Festival of Bands, as well as the ISSMA district competition. To prepare the hospitality and showmanship these events demand, the work of both the band members and the parent volunteers intensifies.

The competitions are full day events in which dozens of bands show their musical talent and compete for placement. To organize the competitions, it takes one full year, multiple fundraisers, hundreds of volunteers, and a lot of hard work.

Final preparations for the competitions generally take two to three weeks. During this period, there are many meetings concerning the finances and organization of the events. In reference to the Fall Festival of Bands, Leslie Crandall, organizer for the ISSMA district competition and the Fall Festival of Bands, said, "the day after the competition, we start planning for next year."

Due to the hectic schedules that parent volunteers know well and that the directors experience as they accommodate regular teaching demands and rehearsals in addition to competition preparations, band directors Steve Barber and Brad Watkins, band manager Rebecca Blevins, and band treasurer Eileen Fraser all declined to be interviewed.

However, although total expenditures for the band competitions could not be determined, Crandall confirmed the general costliness.

"I can't put a dollar figure on it," she said, "[but] it costs a bunch."

The funds necessary to make these competitions a success come from a variety of sources. These include the $210 band fee each band member pays, as well as revenue from Music Boosters, the band's car wash, the band's famous Johnny Appleseed Festival chicken-and-dumpling stand, and Homestead athletic event concession sales. The car wash raises $25,000, and the Johnny Appleseed Festival stand raises $40,000. The money raised from band fees, Music Boosters, and concessions vary year to year. Often, band equipment from previous years is used to cut costs.

> "The day after the competition, we start planning for next year."
>
> **LESLIE CRANDALL**
> *Fall Festival of Bands Organizer*

Volunteers from various organizations assist during the two Homestead events. Helpers include band and Music Booster parents, Homestead Key Club members, and local Boy Scouts.

Bands from participating schools can vouch that competitions hosted at Homestead High School are professional and enjoyable.

David Luna, a drum major from Elmhurst High School, commented that Homestead is a "fun school with nice people." He noted that competitions at Homestead are very well run.

"They know what they're doing," Luna said.

Matthew Harloff, the associate director of Avon High School's marching band, has similar feelings about the Homestead Spartan Alliance Marching Band. He stated that Homestead's show is always enjoyable, and he is glad that the students in Avon's band are able to see some great shows. Harloff also stated that competitions hosted by Homestead are always "incredibly professional."

"The facility is outstanding," said Harloff, "[and] the hospitality is unlike any other."

The ISSMA district competition was held on Oct. 3. A week later, the Festival of Bands was held on Oct. 10. The Band has its Regional Competition next weekend, October 17, at Chesterton High School, and pending those results, the State competition Oct. 31 at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO: WWW.GLOBALSOLUTIONS.ORG

President Barack Obama spoke about environment protection at the G20 summit in Pittsburgh, Pa., last month. While raising awareness – which has been Obama's main goal in past addresses – is always helpful, using the most accurate facts to do so is even more pertinent. The rapid spread of misinformation regarding global warming, copy editor Kirsten Overdahl asserts, is hindering any potential progress toward a comprehensive solution for climate change.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

School takes no-nonsense attitude with picture

Administration takes extreme measures to discipline panoramic photograph shenanigans

By Suzie Reecer
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Every year, seniors pile into the gymnasium for the annual senior panoramic picture. Every year, there tends to be a few seniors who pose immaturely for the photo, and some are blacked out of the photo. Every year, the senior students purchase the panoramic picture as a keepsake of their high school years at Homestead. But this year, three students were pulled out of the photo without a justifiable reason.

Steven Repka, Jarred Gidley and Trent Cunningham were among the rest of the seniors as they took their place in the bleachers. The photographer told everyone he was doing a test shot and would warn them when it was the real thing.

Before the shutter clicked, Repka and Gidley performed their "mean mug" by pointing their finger to the camera. Cunningham simultaneously threw up the peace sign. Immediately, athletic director Joe Updegrove pointed to the students and pulled them out of the crowd.

"They sat Jarred and I down behind the photographer and the senior class starting cheering and clapping for us, and booing the administrators," Repka said. "Then they decided we deserved to spend the next half hour in the discipline office."

The question arises when one considers whether the mean mug and the peace sign were inappropriate or not. If the students had done anything mildly inappropriate – maybe putting up a different finger – then I believe pulling the students out would be reasonable. But pulling the students out for simply pointing at the camera? That seems extreme.

The panoramic picture will later serve as a memory keepsake for all the students who choose to purchase it, and now these three students will be absent from the photo. The photograph should reflect everyone's personalities and show how much fun they had in their high school years, even though fun is not always common within the school walls.

"I was 100 percent surprised when I was pulled out. I honestly thought he was pointing at a student behind me," Gidley said. "The administrators are ridiculous. I am not a troublemaker. I have never been sent to the office. It seems anymore they would rather get us in trouble, than help us learn."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Senior Steven Repka imitates the pose that landed him in the discipline office for a half an hour. Repka deemed his stance "the mean mug." He was also not included in the final panoramic photograph. Two other students, Jarred Gidley (12) and Trent Cunningham (12), were escorted out of the photo after they struck similar poses as their peers cheered them on.

Truth hard to find in climate debates

By Kirsten Overdahl
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

The phrases "climate control," "global warming" and "energy policies" permeate media, the Congress, and United Nations summits. Yet for many United States citizens, climate change is a concept to which eyes are closed, ears are shut and hands are chained. Misinformation and exaggeration mixes with legitimate news, so it is easy to understand why people are reluctant to see or hear the need for new energy policies – sorting through endless information is exhausting, and many give up, resigned to believe that changes really won't matter much. However, in a race against truth, truth inevitably wins. It is necessary to implement changes to target climate control, and rather than rely on national bills and U.N. debates, changes must begin in communities, homes and individual lifestyles if they are to be effective.

Citizens should not become lost in the debate between whether climate change is man-made or a natural cycle, for whichever factor is more prominent, both sides have merit. Scientists and historians say that the Earth undergoes natural changes as it cycles through different climates; when experts follow the cyclic path through history, the current warmer climate matches the patterns. These advocates argue that there is no point in altering human behavior to rescue the environment, and thus no purpose in creating government mandates to promote environmentally-compatible lifestyles. Many environmentalists and politicians, though, argue that the gradual but steady warming of the Earth's atmosphere results from man-made greenhouse gases and pollutants. Those who believe that global warming is a human phenomenon support legislation that limits carbon emissions.

Resolution, however, does not lie in United Nations energy summits or national legislation alone. Whether or not global warming is a man-made or a natural cycle, how people live affects the environment in which they live. If true change is to benefit the warming climate, action needs to begin at the grassroots level. It is foolish to believe that legislation alone can resolve the challenge of climate change. Individual accountability, rather than a legislated "someone else," will yield success.

Rather than bank on others to push the nation reluctantly toward change, Americans should assess the simple ways in which they can modify habits to use fewer resources and emit less waste. For Homestead students, it could be as simple as sharing a ride. The nation's food supply also has a surprisingly large carbon footprint; a glance in the family refrigerator may reveal apples from Australia and grapes from Chile. Food packaging, either for transcontinental shipping or for "convenience" servings, is excessive. Imagine the savings in transportation costs, emissions, and garbage if citizens supported local growers!

The truth of climate change may not be known within this generation. Even so, care for this global home can only benefit those who live here.

PARTICIPATION POINTS

Obama unworthy of Nobel Peace Prize ranks

In receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, President Obama has been placed among the ranks of such greats as Mother Teresa, Aung San Suu Kyi and Elie Wiesel. But what has he done?

Nominated less than two weeks into his presidency, Obama has received the award after being in office for only eight months. While the Nobel committee has stressed Obama's diplomacy initiatives as the deciding factor, we believe he has not had enough time to prove himself. Nobels should be awarded based on definitive action, not on the hope that one inspires.

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Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer
Hana Svetlovics

Most Nobel award winners worked tirelessly for years on end before being recognized for their achievements, and deservedly so – every school child has learned of Martin Luther King's story and struggles and of the enormous impact he has had on American society and civil rights.

By choosing to award someone so prematurely, the Nobel Peace Prize has lost much of its credibility. Moreover, the choice could even be considered wholly unjustified for other reasons. For one, while his plate is undoubtedly full with issues right here in the U.S., Obama's dedication to human rights has been dubious thus far.

In the area of Darfur, for instance, he has appointed Scott Gration as the U.S. envoy, a man who, evidently, will do nothing. Obama has also refused to acknowledge the Armenian genocide as genocide, a move our previous President also made in an effort to please Turkey.

Humanitarian concerns aside, Obama has declared his win as a "call to action" rather than "recognition of [his] own accomplishments." In December, he will travel to Oslo to accept the award, as well as the $1.4 million dollars that he intends to donate to charity.

Still, we are utterly shocked by the Nobel committee's decision. Obama, on the basis of possible future action, trumped Sima Samar, an Afghan women right's activist who fought the Taliban regime at great risk to herself. If Nobel committees continue to make decisions in this way, the award may, one day, be scoffed at as an item of little significance.

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *Obama's award represents a critical flaw in the committee's reasoning.*

PHOTO: WWW.ZIMBIO.COM

PRO

"I think it is extraordinary. It will be even greater inspiration for the world."

WANGARI MAATHAI
2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

PHOTO: WWW.ZIMBIO.COM

CON

"He has risen above incompetence. He is now judged on wishful thinking."

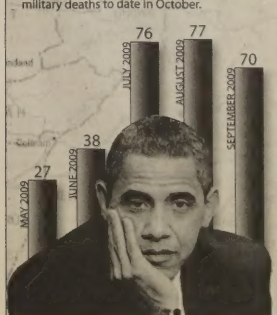
RUSH LIMBAUGH
Talk Show Radio Host

ISTAN

an inconvenient exit

SPIKE OF THE SUMMER

Fatalities in Afghanistan jumped more than 210 percent from June to July. There have been 29 military deaths to date in October.



War in Afghanistan a complex, messy issue for president to tackle

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

We never should have gone into Iraq, but we did. And when we did, we focused on Iraq and we left Afghanistan, the problem's real source, in the dust. Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq in 2003. Eight years have passed. Both are now terrifyingly intricate and desperate situations.

But what should be done for Afghanistan? So far, it has been given little resources of any kind to work with. The situation is incredibly complex; one must take into account bordering Pakistan, the state of our economy, what strategy will be most effective, and – most importantly – the American lives that are at stake.

I like General McChrystal. He's a good man, a man who cares for his troops, a man who encourages them to respect and cooperate with the locals. He's lowered civilian casualties by directing troops to call for airstrikes in the case of self-defense. And, more recently, he's sought additional troops from Obama – approximately 40,000 more.

Which was no small shock to Obama, by the way, as it would be politically unwise to allow such deployment, and yet there is justification to such hesitation on our president's part. For one, America's wallet and troops are stretched thin. Therefore, as Senator Lugar has stated to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we must favor a "comprehensive plan that includes not just military elements, but also makes progress on development, governance, and other factors that directly affect the stability and welfare of these countries [Afghanistan and Pakistan]."

And, of course, we can not forget about the cost of human life.

Since the beginning of the year, the death toll has been rising dramatically for both U.S. soldiers and Afghan civilians. While McChrystal's war in Afghanistan is undoubtedly underequipped and undermanned, Obama's limited escalation of the war so far has led to a 24 percent increase in the civilian death toll, according to a July report issued by the Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan. While McChrystal has done his best to limit such results, they are inevitable in the face of strikes against insurgents. Still, if we were to flee and leave the people to the Taliban, it is doubtful that their quality of life would be much better. By gaining the Afghan public's trust, as McChrystal hopes to do, they would be more open to giving away insurgent positions and bringing the war to a successful conclusion – but it is unclear as of yet whether he will be successful.

> "But back to Afghanistan. It's a convoluted mess, tragic at that, and nearly impossible to decipher. Personally, given my research, I believe sending more troops has more cons than pros."
>
> **CELIA GRUNDMAN**
> *Opinion Editor*

Then there is the delicate balancing act concerning Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, which lends itself to the debate of adding troops to the pot or not. The rationale for increased U.S. efforts in Afghanistan largely depends on how our actions could affect Pakistan's stability. Senator Lugar asks the hard questions: "Do aspects of our current military posture in Afghanistan aggravate the situation in Pakistan? Would increasing the intensity of our counterinsurgency activities in Afghanistan benefit stability across the border?"

In order to have an exit strategy for Afghanistan, Pakistan must be stable, especially given the nuclear danger in South Asia. If we leave and let the Taliban run wild, the effects could be phenomenally dangerous. If we stay, the Afghanistan war slips into Pakistan, as it has been doing for the past several years. According to a July poll by Gallup and Al Jazeera, 59 percent of Pakistanis believe that the U.S. is the biggest threat to their country's security. What we need to do, ultimately, is invest in Pakistan and their goals for democracy and pluralism. The recent passage of the Kerry-Lugar bill, which provides $1.5 billion in aid to Pakistan for each of the next five years, is a step in the right direction.

But back to Afghanistan. It's a convoluted mess, tragic at that, and nearly impossible to decipher. Personally, given my research, I believe sending more troops has more cons than pros. More debate on the topic needs to be spurred, however, and hopefully Obama will step up to the plate by doing so.

SOURCE: WWW.ICASUALTIES.ORG | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK SVITEK

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

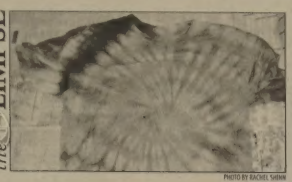


PHOTO BY RACHEL SHAW

Originally a fad in the 1970s, tie-dye has made a comeback into 21st century teenagers' lives. The designs are similar and commonly homemade. All the students who want to join in on this new fashion trend can make their own tie-dye using the fun guide created and tested by The Spartana. Afterwards, you will have a shirt with your own design that can be worn anyday. Tie-dye is back and making a huge hit in the clothing displayed the halls of Homestead.

It's a whole new hallgame

Student game grows into hallway trend

By Nicole Ivanovic
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Seen any students drop their books and spontaneously collapse in the hallway as of late? If so, it can clearly be ascertained that the mysterious phenomenon of the infamous "dart game" is in progress.

Originally introduced to Homestead by the boys' cross country team, the dart game involves one student pretending to shoot a dart at another friend by forming his or her hands in a sort of "okay" sign, and then placing them upon their lips and blowing as though to pantomime something akin to a Native American shooting a dart through a peashooter. The receiver of this "dart" is required to "die" on the spot, and then is honor bound to wait until another student takes pity upon them by pulling the dart out of his or her neck, thereby reviving them. The game, of course, includes numerous other rules, but those are to be discovered by participants.

The student body's acceptance of this phenomenon is clearly skyrocketing, given the number of students involved.

"I learned how to play at a cross country lake retreat and started teaching it to some of my friends. From there, the game exploded and soon everyone knew how to play it," Trevor Thain (11) said.

"The game is one of the first that involves many different people, and it is great because it is a non-contact game," Becky Vail, science teacher, said.

While it seems as though the dart game has potential for harmful behavior and class disruption, it has, as of now, been kept under relative control. While some students may know little or possibly nothing about the rules, they have come in contact with the dart game simply due to exposure in class.

"The game is not disruptive, and most kids play outside of class. The only time that they bring it into the classroom is before the bell. Most kids are mature enough to keep it safe and friendly," Vail said.

"I shot my friend in the lunch line, and he dropped his food," Grant Troutman (12) said.

"My friend shot three guys, one after the other, and dragged them into the bathroom, put them all in one stall, locked the door, turned off the lights and said ' Well, no one will find you here,'" Thain said.

Although the game at once seemed popular and enduring of both time and other social phenomena, given that such a large group of students are involved in the tomfoolery, it has begun to take a downhill turn. Many of the original players have now stopped playing, leaving new learners to keep the tradition going.

"I stopped playing because, like all made up games, they are fun at first, but are short lived and get old. It was fun at first when only a little group of friends knew how to play, but then it spread all over the school," Troutman said.

Through trivial pastimes such as the dart game, students are able to interact in a fun and unusual fashion without causing trouble or disruption. The game illuminates how an imaginative person was able to utilize his individual talents, and even better illustrates how even seemingly foolish things are able to spread through the school like wildfire.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Demonstration: Max Dickmeyer (11), Keelan Rushing (11), Connor Toennies (11)

STEP 1

Say a friend's name when they are not looking at you.

STEP 2

Make "the shoot" signal at the victim when they look.

STEP 3

The victim falls to the ground and stays motionless.

STEP 4

PHOTOS BY MARY DISTLER

Say a friend's name when they are not looking at you.

LEARNING: the signs & moves

the SHOOT

To "shoot" others, place one hand over your mouth in the shape of an "O" with your pinky up. Completing the shot is final when you make eye contact and act as though you are blowing a dart through the circle of your hands to the victim.

the BLOCK

To "block" a shot, straighten your hand and move your thumb to make an "L." Place your hand in front of your nose and look at the shooter when the dart is "thrown" at you, signifying that the dart is blocked from hitting you and the game continues.

the DEAD

If you are hit with a dart due to not "blocking," you are considered dead. Then it is expected for the "dead" person to fall on to the ground or act as though they are dead in their seat. You remain still and in this position until the dart is removed from your neck.

the SAVE

When someone is dead, the only way for them to become alive again is for another person to remove the "dart" from the neck of the dead. Once the dart is removed, the "dead" person is then allowed to rejoin the game and continue with their day.

WAKE UP & *smell the coffee*

New coffeehouse serves gluten-free snacks, treats, lunch foods

By Alexis Yanez
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Those who suffer from food allergies are more than aware of the fact that such allergies not only haunt their every menu selection and plague their food choices, but sometimes completely preclude them from eating at establishments that offer delicious fare.

The Roasted Bean Coffee Company offers numerous different blends of coffee, including Costa Rica Rain Forest Blend, Matador: The Bean's Own Blend, Ethiopian Dark Blend, Kenyan Roast and Colombian Rich Mountain Grown Coffee.

Local delivery for the Roasted Bean Coffee Company is also available as an unusual yet welcomed aspect not commonly seen in coffee shops. Coffee and foodstuffs can be delivered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., with a $2.00 delivery fee for orders under $10.00. Other delivery times may be available if requested in advance.

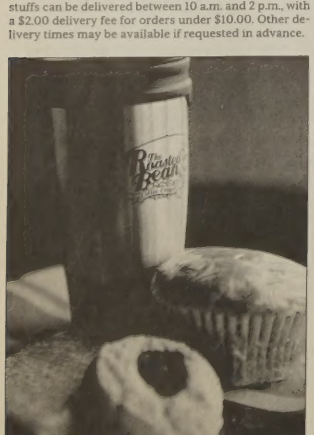


PHOTO BY SUZIE BEELER

A thermos with coffee from The Roasted Bean Coffee Company accompanied with three of the gluten-free pastries made and offered in the locally owned coffeeshop on Illinois Road.

The Roasted Bean offers numerous gluten-free selections, including biscotti, brownies, scones, muffins, cookies and fresh-baked bread. Gluten-free Panini, gluten-free Calzone, gluten-free Quiche and the soup of the day, which is also gluten-free, are also available as lunch foods.

"I think that the gluten-free coffeehouse is very beneficial because it makes going out to eat with friends a lot easier. When you have an allergy, you still want to go out to eat with friends and accompany them to restaurants, but often times you are limited by what you can eat and it causes you to either feel left out or to consume food that could cause an allergic reaction," Rafal Swiatkowski (12), who suffers from a gluten allergy, said. "However, when a restaurant serves gluten-free food or is completely gluten-free, someone who is allergic to gluten can still go out and have a good time with friends without having to pack their own food or scan the menu frantically for something that they are able to eat. It keeps your allergy from debilitating you socially."

According to webMD, gluten allergies stem from being allergic to grain. Gluten is found in bread, cereal, flour and pastas. If a person with a gluten allergy does not avoid gluten, there can be severe problems, although gluten allergies are not as serious as celiac disease, which is an allergy for which gluten should be avoided completely for fear of suffering fatal consequences. So long as a person does not experience an adverse reaction, it is not necessary to abstain from eating gluten entirely -- gluten should simply be consumed in moderation. Symptoms of gluten allergies include upper respiratory tract problems, fatigue, mouth ulcers and weight loss. Wheat, barley and rye should be avoided in all circumstances.

"Gluten allergies affect a person by requiring him to make sure that food is gluten-free, [as is shown] on a box of cereal. Most foods at restaurants have gluten in them, so the person must make sure the food he is going to eat does not contain it," Maria Lund, school nurse, said.

Not all who suffer food allergies find themselves barred from gluten; some are allergic to other entities entirely.

"I am allergic to peanuts and I have had to avoid them since I was born," Hunter Brutton (10) said.

Food allergies seem to infiltrate every facet of a sufferer's life, including menu choices and social obligations. However, with gluten-free establishments cropping up across the world, it appears as though the pressing concern of food allergies has at last become rightly recognized, and may no longer be incapacitating.

Deer hunting sparks interest in students' extracurricular life

By Hana Svetlovics
Executive Editor • hsvetlov@thespartana.net

Just before sunrise on any brisk October morning, hunters across the state can be found setting up for a day of recreation. Success in the hours to come is determined by the preparedness of the hunter in his choice of location, clothing and weapon. It is hard to say what motivates the hunter to head out in the cold and perch in a tree several hours before daybreak, but, needless to say, hunting has remained quite popular in Indiana.

Hunting seasons vary by the chosen animal, but begin predominantly in the late fall and continue on into late spring. By far the most popular and populous animal to hunt in Northern Indiana is the deer, with seasons beginning on the first of October for archers and mid-November for firearm users.

"I prefer to hunt deer because it is more fun and has a lot more adventure," Mitch Welbaum (12) said.

Deer have become a nuisance to land owners statewide as a result of their extreme population growth in the 1990's. As controlled hunts have become the norm, the population has seen a steady decrease, but there are still plenty left for sportsmen.

"It takes a lot of skill to hunt deer, and you can do it local," Noah Gayer (12) said. "You don't have to go to Africa or Alaska to hunt for them, and that's why I like it."

Many different techniques can be used to hunt these creatures, not only involving weapons but also location and strategy. One possibility is to set up a ground blind, which is a tent-like structure or brush covering used to hide behind and wait for deer. However, this option often obscures the hunter's view of approaching deer and limits the shot.

The best option for this type of prey is a tree stand: a small seat set high in a tree that offers a wide view of the hunting ground.

"Tree stands are better because you can look down on the deer and get a better angle," Welbaum said. "We do see deer most of the times we go, but it really just depends on the weather, time of day and how many are out."

> "You don't have to go to Africa or Alaska to hunt for them, and that's why I like it."
>
> **NOAH GAYER (12)**
> *Hunter*

Arguably, the most important part of any hunting trip is the weapon used. Weapon choice determines the time of year a hunter can hunt, as seasons differ for archers and gun users. Archery is allowed earlier and lasts longer than firearm hunting. However, archery requires different skills than shooting, and may be harder to master.

"I prefer archery over guns because it takes more skill and is more difficult," Gayer said. "You're so close that you have to be quieter, and it takes a lot of strength to hold the bow back and steady with all the weight."

However, the typical modern description of a hunter often includes firearms as the weapons of choice, for one reason or another.

"I've used a bow before, but I prefer a gun," Mike Klonica (11) said. "I guess it's just more manly."

A factor that must be considered by a new outdoorsman is the price he is willing to pay for his newfound hobby. Both shotguns and compound bows vary widely in price, with guns ranging from $400 to $1000 and bows from $300 to $900. Another factor to consider is ammunition. Arrows can be retrieved after use, but cost significantly more than bullets. Again, the kind of equipment depends on what the hunter decides; the better the weapon, the more expensive it will be.

Before setting out on an excursion, licensure must also be taken into consideration. In order to hunt alone, one must obtain a hunting license by completing a hunter's safety course. One can purchase an apprentice license and skip the safety courses with the stipulation of hunting with a fully licensed individual.

All the rules and regulations may be daunting and can turn individuals away from the sport. However, in the end, those that stick with it often find the reward of a good story every now and then.

"I went on a two-day hunting trip in Michigan, and didn't see a single deer for two days," Klonica said. "But then on the way back home, we hit one with the truck. I was so mad."

The Perks of Purple Prose, Fantasy and Fantastic Formality

My favorite books are characterized by what some call purple prose – sophisticated turn of phrase, windingly ornate passages of description, and pages upon pages of sensually evocative, elaborate imagery. I find that plot is insignificant in the face of language- I thrive on both reading and writing wordy fiction, I pride myself on my verbosity, and for me, a writer must possess a vocabulary of the highest caliber for his/her finished product to be even remotely enjoyable.

My love of Ernest Hemingway is therefore somewhat puzzling. His style is straightforward and modest, unadorned with adjectives, and distinguished by the fact that his characters' actions always, always speak louder than the omniscient narrator's words.

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

A Farewell to Arms is by no means Hemingway's best-loved novel, but it is to me the crowning achievement of his career. It illuminates the senseless bloodshed and bleak reality of war with detached rationalism, a stark portrait of WWI from an American soldier on Italian frontlines. Lieutenant Henry is eternally compelled to fight a resentful battle and do horrifying things, but Hemingway presents the timeless dilemma of morality in the war's violence, and he does so without explicitly drawing attention to it.

Against the austere environment of war, Hemingway philosophizes as to the sorrowful nature of love and its ability to provide solace. When the beautiful Catherine encounters Henry, she engages in a game of seduction used to chase away the grief of her deceased fiancé, and Henry follows her to the altar because he is helpless to do otherwise. Whereas Henry and Catherine find escapism in what they call love, Henry's friend Rinaldi takes solace in promiscuity, and the anonymous priest in God. The novel is not a formulaic love story, but rather a bleak tale of looking to love anything that will distance oneself from the appalling revulsion of war.

Catherine and Henry dream of a different life, of a charming stone cottage in the Swiss Alps, of needing nothing but one another. Their dreams are no more than diversions- Hemingway suggests that one must escape into an illusory world in order to cope with the horrendous truths of reality.

I've read A Farewell to Arms multiple times, and no matter how much I wish otherwise, I remain unconvinced that Catherine and Henry truly love one another. It seems evident that Catherine is merely in love with the idea of love, and Henry looks to dive headlong into anything that will distance him from the war. It appears as though Catherine and Henry merely use one another for consolation.

> "A Farewell to Arms' is by no means Hemingway's best-loved novel, but it is to me the crowning achievement of his career. It illuminates the senseless bloodshed and bleak reality of war with detached rationalism, a stark portrait of WWI from an American soldier on Italian frontlines."
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Life Editor*

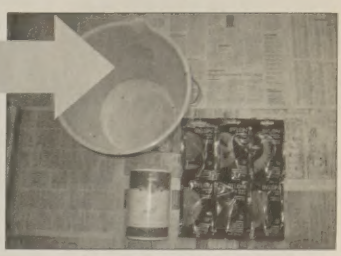
Hemingway reports Catherine's death in childbirth expressionlessly, suggesting that great love cannot last when formed selfishly, but it is love nonetheless. His novels are all the more engrossing for their limits, more magnetic than the work of any other classic author, and he makes me want to believe the words he didn't write, to be persuaded by the explanation that never comes, to be convinced that love can be real, even when formed for all the wrong reasons.

How to TIE DYE *(the right way)*

BY RACHEL SHINN
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Despite its frequent place on the do-not-wear list, the art of tie-dyeing produces a fresh and different cornucopia of color with every design. Dating back hundreds of years, tie-dyeing is an everlasting form of expression that is not only a way to pass time but also a cultural symbol throughout the world.

STEP 1 PREPARING THE DYES

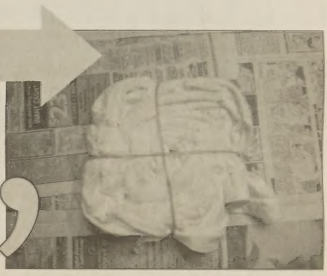


1) Obtain enough buckets so that each dye has its own container. The buckets should be about 4 gallons each.
2) Heat the water to boiling and then fill each bucket to three quarters full.
3) Pour the powdered dye into its designated container. Hint: The amount of powdered dye you should use depends on how dark you want the color to be. The dyed water should always be tinted darker than the color you want your garment to be dyed.
4) Stir the dye so that none of it settles to the bottom.
5) To preserve the colors when you wash the garments, you should add one to two teaspoons of iodized salt to the mixture and stir.

STEP 2 PREPARING THE T-SHIRT

1) Dampen the item you're tie-dyeing. It doesn't have to be soaking wet, but it works better if it's damp.
2) Lay the item out in front of you on a flat surface and grab the center. Start twisting the center until the whole garment starts turning in a circular motion.

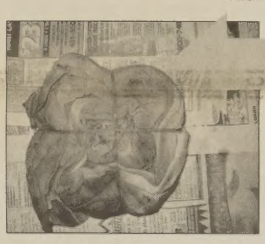
STEP 3 TYING THE T-SHIRT



1) Take two rubber bands and wrap them around the garment so that they cross at the center. The rubber bands should be tight enough to keep the garment held in place but loose enough that you can fit your finger under them.

> "I love tie-dyeing because every shirt turns out differently; you never know how it's going to look. I mean seriously, who doesn't want to make their own something that has been tie-dyed.
>
> **MOLLY QUINN (11)**
> *Frequent Tie Dyer*

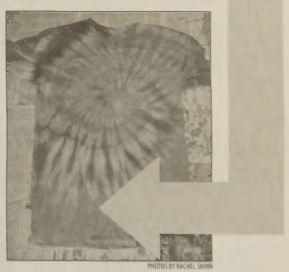
STEP 4 DYING THE T-SHIRT



1) If you're planning on using two colors for your garment, dip half of the garment into your first dye. Hold it there for seven to ten minutes. Then repeat this step with the second half of your garment and your second dye.
2) If you plan to use three colors, there will be a total of six different colors on your shirt. Dip 1/3 of your garment into the first dye and hold it there for seven to ten minutes. Then, turn your garment 90° and repeat the step with the second color. Finally, turn your garment again and repeat with the third color.

STEP 4 FINAL PRODUCT

1) Rinse your garment until the water is clear of any dyes.
2) Let the garment dry completely and then wash it in a rinse cycle with no detergent.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL SHINN

WHERE TO BUY DYE

- The dyes can be bought at Wal-Mart or any craft store. I recommend buying the six colors that Wal-Mart offers. They are about $2 each and are much cheaper than buying the kit, which contains only four colors.
- The colors available at Wal-Mart are black, pink, green, teal, blue and red. A pack of 5 shirts costs about $8 so the total cost would be about $20.

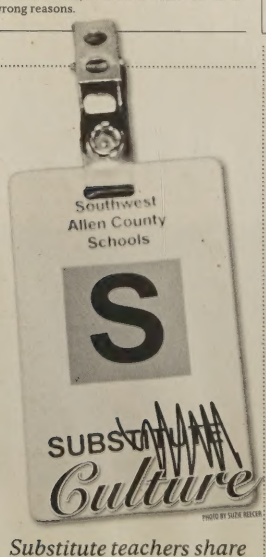


PHOTO BY SUZIE REESER

Substitute teachers share their backgrounds, reveal interests beside teaching

BY ELANA MERRITT
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Sooner or later, a teacher is inevitably compelled to be absent, leaving a substitute at the helm of their class. While many substitutes are more than satisfactory in conducting class in the teacher's absence, some are more memorable than others.

▸▸MR. GREENHOW:

Mr. Greenhow is notorious at Homestead for the brainteasers and puzzles that he shares with the classes he substitutes in. He first taught regular classes at a high school in Canada, but he has since switched to substituting at Homestead, Woodside Middle School, and Summit Middle School, as well as being a Baptist priest on Sundays in South Whitley.

"I personally find the students [at Homestead] all of the time very good, and I like working with them. I think the kids enjoy [the puzzles] because they're kind of an attention grabber," Greenhow said. Some of the puzzles he works with students in class include four to six piece puzzles that form letters when shaped correctly, or the ubiquitous and often popular horse puzzle. He also tells stories, which include two well-known anecdotes about the last civil war widow and gargantuan rock carvings of horses.

▸▸MR. SILVERMAN:

Mr. Silverman is a substitute that can be found at Homestead far more frequently than his peers. He partook in a career as an insurance agent before progressing to become the manager of technical publications at Magnavox.

"[Homestead] is close to home and it's convenient. The fact that I've never had any serious discipline problems at Homestead is one reason I substitute here. I enjoy [Homestead]," Silverman said.

Apart from taking pleasure in substituting at Homestead, Silverman has numerous hobbies to pass his time.

"In high school, I began acting. There's a real sense of gratification if you think the production you're in is a good one, and I guess my favorite roles have been George in Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolff and Macbeth in Macbeth," Silverman said.

Silverman's talents also encompass bridge, a popular card game; he is ranked as a Silver Life Master, which is superior to most amateurs, but just shy of professional level.

> "[Homestead's] excellence is not just in academics. They understand about developing the whole person."
>
> **"COACH" ECKLER**
> *Substitute Teacher*

▸▸MRS. ECKLER:

Before she began substituting at Homestead, Eckler worked in manufacturing as a human resources director.

"I think Homestead is one of the top public high schools in the state. Their excellence is not just in academics. They understand about developing the whole person," Eckler said.

Eckler is known as "Coach Eckler" due to her position as a collegiate rugby coach.

"Rugby is a hybrid sport between soccer and football. It originated in Europe as a contact sport with fifteen players against fifteen players. I like the collegiate level because of the higher level of playing, discipline, competitiveness and teamwork," Eckler said.

When not coaching rugby in her free time, Eckler is also a passionate outdoorswoman.

"I hunt just about everything that can be found in Indiana, from deer to geese," Eckler said.

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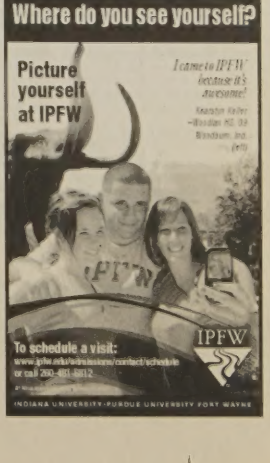
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SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

With a record that makes last season foolish, the volleyball team begins sectional play at Northrop next Thursday. The team had it's senior night last week against the NHC rival Norwell Knights. Elena Schmidt (12), Emily Mungovan (12), Michelle Bollinger (12), Taylor Chin (12), Kate Waters (12); and Shiori Saskaki (12) and played one of their last games on the Homestead court. Last Wednesday, they lost a tough match to the Northrop Bruins in four games.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Experienced team hopes to slash back

By Andrew Weiss
writerstaff@thespartana.net

Fourth-year hockey coach Jim Glick always says after tough losses and bad bounces that it is "not about the mistake we made, it's all about the recovery." After last year's underachievement, the hockey team is looking to live down Glick's quote by living up to this year's expectations.

"For the caliber [our team had] and the talent the team had heading into the beginning of last year, [the results were] a real disappointment," Kevin Kelley (12) said. "It was even more of a disappointment to be named the last seed in the 2A bracket because we all thought we were a lot better than that."

Last year's disappointing season ended with a loss to eventual city champion Carroll in the semifinal tournament and just one win in the 2A state finals. The team was able to finish with a record around the .500 mark, but struggled to beat teams placed higher than them in the city.

With this year's team loaded with experience, expectations are just as high as they were two years ago, when the team beat the nearly undefeated North Side Redskins for the city championship. A key to this year's success will be getting off to a winning start, something that the team has failed to do over the past two years.

"It's going to be pretty important to get off to a good start," Nick Rahn (11), first-year starting goaltender, said. "We got really down on ourselves last year, and I think it kind of set the tone for a somewhat disappointing year."

Getting off to a winning start will be tough as the team opens the season against 4A state qualifier and city champion Carroll. History is not on Homestead's side, as the team has never beat the Chargers during a regular season game and has never achieved an opening night win during Coach Glick's tenure.

"If we have a winning record against Carroll, it will be very satisfying for the seniors on the team who have lost to them for the past three seasons," Kelley, who has just one win against Carroll in his three years on the team, said.

This year's team includes five juniors and five seniors, making it one of the most experienced teams in the city. Returning senior forwards Justin Glick, from Blackhawk Christian, Ryan Sweazey (12) and Jarred Gidley (12), as well as defenseman Kelley, will all be key components in determining this year's success.

"Leadership and setting an example will be huge for this year's upperclassmen," Rahn said. "We have a strong group of new players coming in this year, so if we can give them the confidence to play how they have looked in practice, that would be great."

An addition that might be able to help the team get off to a better start will be a healthy Gidley. Gidley spent the first two months of last season recovering from a broken collarbone which he suffered playing for the Fort Wayne High School All-Star Team before the season started. Gidley was able to bounce back from the injury and was a top-five point scorer for the Spartans. He was also able to make Team Indiana, one of just four players from the Fort Wayne area to do so.

"It was a great experience [playing for Team Indiana]; it really gave me a lot of confidence, and hopefully I can contribute even more to this year's team's success," Gidley said.

A strong group of upperclassmen as well as the team's guarantee to recover from last year's mistakes may just be enough to get back the city championship for the second time in three years.

"This early, it's hard to tell how well we will work together, but we have a great team on paper," Kelley said. "If the team is as good on paper as we are on the ice we should have a lot of success."

Because of press deadlines, the results of the Carroll versus Homestead game were not able to be included in this issue.

THROWING *in the* TOWEL

Athletes walk away from commitments

By Andy Franklin
Copy Editor-copy@thespartana.net

"Winners never quit, and quitters never win." This quote sums up most of society's views on the merits of quitters. However, in the world of high school sports, student-athletes quitting sports is no new phenomenon. Especially with all the added pressures of scholarly and other extracurricular activities, students are leaving sports in increasing numbers.

There are many factors which motivate student-athletes to quit their respective sports. For all of the benefits that a sport provides, including discipline, physical fitness and personal success, there are many difficulties and drawbacks to playing a sport. Most sports require an intense amount of dedication and hard work, leaving students little time to study, participate in other activities or even just relax with friends. In addition, conflicts with coaches can also affect a student's desire to participate in a sport. These factors along with numerous others lead many to quit.

"Although I do miss certain aspects of the sport, I enjoy my life more now than I did [while I was playing football]. The sport just wasn't for me anymore, and because I'm happier, I've seen other areas of my life improve, like academics."

KYLE BUSH (12)
Former Football Player

"Although I do miss certain aspects of the sport, I enjoy my life more now than I did [while I was practicing]," Kyle Bush (12), former football player, said. "The sport just wasn't for me anymore, and because I'm happier, I've seen other areas of my life improve, like academics."

Sometimes participants are lead to quit sports because they want to focus on excelling in other areas of their lives. Even if they may enjoy the sport they play, other activities can interfere with their ability to take part in said sport. Such is the case with Suzie Reecer (12), a golfer who recently won a sectional title after taking a year off last year.

"After my sophomore year, I really started getting into photography. I had senior pictures to do and wanted to [take photos at] more Homestead events, so I took my junior year off. I loved having the extra time, even though still didn't have much down time to relax," Reecer said. "This summer I just played a lot [of golf] with my dad and felt like going back to the team."

Student-athletes also quit sports to focus on improving their skills in other sports. In the competitive environment of high school athletics, many students decide to drop all other sports so they can excel in the sport in which they have the greatest chance to be successful.

"Playing tennis was also a factor in taking a year off from golf too," Reecer said. "I knew we had a really good chance to win state, so I wanted to focus on that. We ended up getting runner up [that year], so it was a good decision after all."

Varsity soccer player Ben Hazen (12) also forwent other athletic activities to concentrate on his primary sport. A common choice amongst many athletes.

"My freshman year, I played soccer and wrestled, which I enjoyed. Then, I broke my back, so I couldn't wrestle my sophomore year. After that, colleges began to talk to me about scholarships for playing soccer," Hazen said. "So I decided to quit wrestling and work on only soccer. I think it definitely paid off because I'm getting a couple of good looks from colleges and plan on attending DePauw to play soccer."

Whether students quit to get more time to relax or to spend more time getting better at other sports, it is a fact of life that it is bound to happen. Luckily, there are enough student-athletes at Homestead to ensure that all sports will have as many participants as are needed to fill their rosters.

PHOTO BY JIA WANG

Clark retires after winning 31 sectional titles

No one was surprised. To be honest, everyone expected it to happen again. It was the boys' varsity tennis team's 31st consecutive sectional victory that came as no surprise to anyone in the crowd. As the Spartans walked off the court with another victory under their belt, they had to turn their eyes to an even bigger prize: a semi-state and, hopefully, state championship. They had been working towards this goal all season. The semi-state competition, which was held last Saturday, Oct. 10, saw the Spartans achieve victory over Western three matches to two. The Spartans finished at the top of the semi-state bracket and proved that they are ready for the challenge that lies ahead at the state tournament. After 31 seasons as head coach of the team, Jim Clark reflects on the past experiences of his coaching career as he begins his final attempt to win state.

The Spartana: How long have you been coach of the Spartan tennis team?

Clark: I have been coaching for the last 31 years.

The Spartana: How do you feel about this being your last year coaching?

Clark: It has been a lot harder than I thought it would be, especially since I do not want the season to end for me or the players.

The Spartana: What will you miss the most?

Clark: I will miss the feeling of success the most, and the challenge each year to see how we can improve from the beginning of the season to the last match of the season.

The Spartana: How does it feel to have 31 consecutive sectional victories with Homestead?

Clark: I love it! I tell the players that we always practice to win, and reaching that level of success is a tribute to all of the teams and individuals who have made that possible. I also tell them that as we continue to keep that consecutive number of sectional victories intact, all those players from each of those previous teams [will still be] tied somehow to the Homestead tennis program.

The Spartana: Has anything changed since you have been coaching?

Clark: Nothing has changed in the program except the challenge and pressure to continue the string of sectional championships. Tennis is tennis no matter what year it is. Getting the individual to become a team player is always the goal, and success breeds success.

The Spartana: What do you like most about coaching the tennis team?

Clark: I enjoy my time with the players and the challenge of living [out] my tennis success through them. This program is about the players, and my success is based on their success, on the court and off the court.

Spartana: Finally, since this is your last year as head coach, if you could say anything to all the players you have coached what would it be?

Clark: Tennis is bigger than any one player, and it can and should be part of their [entire] life. Tennis teaches us how to be successful in our lives regardless of winning or losing a match, and we learn as much from dealing with winning as we should from losing. I hope that I have taught my players the passion and desire to do the best that they can during practice as well as during a match. If they give 100% all of the time, then there are no losers.

Jim Clark (shown right) helps prepare his team for the state tournament this weekend. After 31 consecutive sectional titles, Clark knows what it takes to perform well in the postseason. The team plays this weekend in the state championship in Indianapolis.

POSTSEASON PROGRESS

(5-0) Whitko	(3-2) Cantebury	(4-1) Concordia
(5-0) Wayne	(3-2) Western	(3-2) Angola

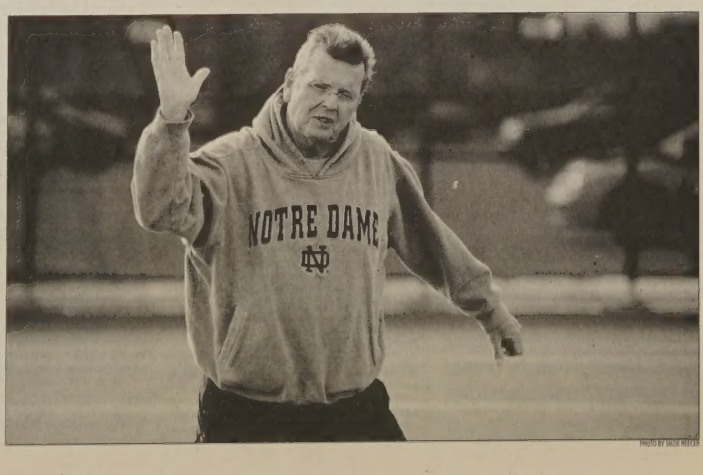


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

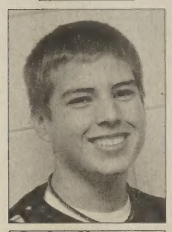
MOLLY ZOLMAN UPDATE

About a month ago, head football coach Chad Zolman's daughter Molly underwent brain surgery in an attempt to end her frequent seizures. Watching eight-year-old Molly undergo surgery was a heart-wrenching experience for everyone close to the Zolman family, Mr. Zolman especially. People from all over the state have shown tremendous support – the members of the varsity football team shaved their heads and sported pink during games. They've helped friends and family of the Zolmans get through the three-week process of preparation and the surgery.

Mr. Zolman was very grateful for all the support and gives great thanks to everyone who prayed and sent letters of hope. Molly is recovering well, as planned. The surgery removed the part of her brain that was causing the seizures. This procedure was predicted to cause problems on the right side of her body, though she has had no problems walking and the doctors say that minor problems will heal themselves in time. After her stint in the hospital, Molly was welcomed home with open arms on Oct. 5. – *Conor Osborne-Price*

Windy City always the bridesmaid, never bride

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

Let me start of by saying congratulations to President Obama. Over the past few weeks, you traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, among other efforts, to make your plea to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to have Chicago host the 2016 Olympics. Not only did your estimated one $1 million "vacation" across the pond end up failing to bring the Olympics to your hometown, but Chicago was eliminated in the first round of voting. Other nominees included Tokyo, Madrid and the winner, Rio de Janeiro. But all was not lost; you were greeted home with open arms, along with the Nobel Peace Prize. Correct me if I am wrong, but don't you have to bring peace to somewhere in the world to win that award? The deadline for nomination for the prize came less than one month after you were in office. I never knew that one incredible man could accomplish so much for the world only one month into his presidency.

It seems as if I am never going to see Chicago win anything in my lifetime. Between seeing the Cubs miss the post-season and Chicago lose the bid to host the 2016 Olympics, the Windy City seems to have nothing going for it right now. I'm guessing that the IOC would rather watch the Olympics next to the Atlantic Ocean, because we all know that Lake Michigan is no pretty sight in comparison.

The IOC consists of over 100 members, all of whom partake in a secret ballot to vote for the host city of the Olympics. Each competing city is represented by a few leaders, including Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, King Juan Carlos of Spain and President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama, along with Queen of All Women Over the Age of 40, excuse me, talk show host Oprah Winfrey. Each of these leaders gave a short presentation explaining why their country should host the summer games. Following the presentation, the silent vote then took place, knocking out each city until the host was found.

During the presentation supporting Madrid, it was said that 77% of the infrastructure needed for the Olympics had already been completed. Remember the famous locations like The Bird's Nest and The Bubble in Beijing during the 2008 Summer Games? Together both of those structures cost over $500 million total to build. Imagine how much of this money was taken from taxpayers across China. Yes, even I'll admit that it was amazing to see all of the creativity that was put into both of these buildings, but now that the building has no use, plans are being made to turn The Bird's Nest into a shopping and entertainment center. Imagine how easily Madrid could have hosted the 2016 Games, with the entire infrastructure already almost completed.

> "I am not trying to blame the president for Chicago not being able to host the Summer Games. I even commend him, as he was the first ever U.S. president to represent America in front of the IOC."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

I am not trying to blame the president for Chicago not being able to host the Summer Games. I even commend him, as he was the first ever U.S. president to represent America in front of the IOC. It took courage to make a plea to host the Olympics in a city where only 47% of the people actually favored the idea. While the IOC says that the choice of the host city is not determined by how much revenue the city makes but by how marketable the city is itself, it still hurts me to know that the one country that dominates the Olympics every chance it gets wasn't able to get the chance to host the summer event in a span of twenty years.

All in all, I'm thankful that I won't need to be waking up at 8 a.m. to watch the U.S.A. basketball team win gold again. I think that Rio de Janeiro was the best choice overall, given the other cities it was matched against. It would have been great to be able to drive to Chi-Town to see the Olympics, but when nearly half of the citizens of Chicago don't want to host the Olympics, it's difficult to think what would have happened if Chicago had won. I think giving South America the chance to host the ringed games for the first time was an honorable decision. A tropical climate was a much better decision as opposed to a cramped and smoggy urban environment. No matter where the Summer Olympics are held, everyone will be able to cheer for their countries, and the athletes will still be able to go for the gold.

YOUR TURN

The only thing more valuable than our two cents is yours — drop us an e-mail at thespartana@gmail.com, visit room 620, call us at (260) 431-2261.

1. Erika Berghoff (11) helps her friend Kate Waters (12) get her game face on by applying yellow paint before Homecoming. During several games this season the student section has led theme nights including Beach Night and Sea of Blue. **2.** To show support for Molly Zolman's recovery, Carolyn Mutton (12) paints a pink heart onto the chest of Andy Phillippe (12) and dons a pink hat and tank top. **3.** As Shelby Bell (11) paints emblems of Spartan pride onto the back of Meghan O'Mara (12), Tom Ault (12) sets up an imaginary game of football using a pop can for a ball. Tailgating is the perfect occasion for these light hearted games and for friends to hang out before the football game. **4.** Nicole Musi (12) and Kirsten Wehling (12) show their support for the football team by dressing up and painting during the tailgate before homecoming. During halftime of the game, Musi was crowned homecoming queen.

PHOTOS BY SAMI REECER

A fan-ly tradition

Faithful fans socialize with weekly pre-game tailgates

BY MAX ISROFF
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

The smell of a cookout is a familiar one at any football stadium in the nation. Recently, Homestead's own Dave S. Walters Memorial Stadium has been no different. This year, students have gotten together up to an hour and a half before kick-off each home game to carry on the long standing tradition of tailgating before football games. Although students in prior years have also tailgated, it appears that this year's upperclassmen have taken the tradition more seriously.

Tailgating has been an every-game occurrence in college football for about the past 100 years, but starting in the 1980's, with the help of television media like ESPN's College Gameday, tailgating spread to professional sports and high schools everywhere. Some colleges take tailgating to the next level. "Paternoville," home of the Penn State Nittany Lions, has a designated area for students to camp out in tents before home games. The trend has now even found its way to Homestead. One can find many students and painters gathered around the grill in the sophomore lot on Friday nights before home games to partake in festivities that include grilling and the occasional game of cornhole.

Tailgating is associated with the most hardcore of fans, but this year, not every fan who attends the tailgate is a stereotypical "huge fan" by most standards. For those among the attendees who are big fans, tailgating offers a chance to get pumped up for the game.

"Tailgating gives us a chance to come together before a big game and get everyone excited," Tom Ault (12) said.

Homestead tailgates have also added a new twist to the tradition of cooking out before home games. Now, painters use this time to pick the word or words that they will spell for the game that night. After the decision is made, names and numbers of senior players are painted on the painters' backs along with the letter they are assigned.

"Some people have the same number every game," Jay Curry (12) said. "For example I always have Opie's (Conor Price (12)) number on my back."

Painters also say they enjoy the warmth that the grill provides on cold game days.

"When we have to stand in the cold with our shirts off for two and a half hours, it's nice to be able to stand around the grill for a little [while] and get warm," Wes Ring (12) said.

And of course, what would tailgating be without the food? Whether the tailgaters are cooking burgers or hotdogs, most people like the hot food right off the grill. Recently, students have cooked cheeseburgers, hamburgers and hot dogs using the charcoal grill.

"Cooking on the charcoal is important; you can always taste the difference when the food is cooked on a propane grill," Ring said.

In addition, Brittany Swartz (11) entered the Indiana NewsCenter Tailgating contest and won a free tailgate party for Homestead. The free food and the possibility of being on television brought more people out to the tailgate, helping raise the attendance number that night.

As the number of home games left dwindles, senior tailgaters are looking to the future.

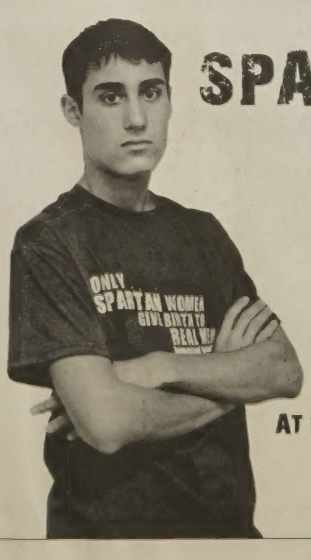
"Tailgating is an important part of Friday nights in the fall, and I think that the tradition of tailgating at Homestead will carry on for a long time," Ault said.

BOYS' SOCCER TEAM SHIFTS TO 13TH PLACE IN STATE RANKINGS

PHOTOS BY SAMI REECER

Zach Mettler (12) watches as teammate Tom Ault (12) dodges a defender en route to the goal. This season, Ault has netted 23 goals in 16 games.

The boys' soccer team has had a monumental season thus far. With a 12-4 record, the Spartans are currently ranked 13th in the state. Although they suffered a 7-1 loss to Carmel in the season's opening tournament, the team went on to defeat rival Canterbury in a 3-0 game and Westview 5-1. The Spartans won the NHC conference title in a close game against Carroll that went into overtime and then penalty kicks. A team milestone included goalie Justin Hanford (12) breaking the state record of 30 career shut-outs. Team leaders include forwards Tom Ault (12), who has scored 23 goals so far this season, and Kegan Harkenrider (12), defenders Ben Hazen (12) and Caleb Castillo (11), and midfielder Connor McMahon (12). The boys defeated both Huntington North and Colombia City to clinch the sectional championship title. In the sectional finals, the team beat Colombia City 6-0. The team faced South Side for their first regional game last Wednesday, and after a winning goal by Ault in double overtime, advanced to the regional finals. The team is hopeful to advance to the state finals, like they did last year. – *Conor Osborne-Price*



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the NEXT65

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The Next 65 highlights events and things to do for the weekend. Reviews of current movies, concerts listings, upcoming theatrical productions and Halloween hangouts such as The Haunted Cave are all here. These events are all within a two-hour drive of Fort Wayne. Get some friends together and take advantage of what the region has to offer. Use these 65 hours, from 3 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday, wisely.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

Zombies gather for mindless march

3rd annual Downtown Fright Night provides frightening attractions for young and old

By Molly Zweig and Cam Kaminski
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

Zombies roam the center of the city, dispersing to partake in ghoulish activities. It's not a scene from a horror movie: this will be a reality Saturday, Oct. 24 in downtown Fort Wayne as part of the 3rd annual Downtown Fright Night.

Fearsome and financially friendly events will be happening all in the heart of Fort Wayne, hosted for the third year in honor of the slow but scary monsters by the Downtown Improvement District. The highlight of this fear fest is the Zombiewalk, but other events will be lurking in same vicinity. Since no mere mortal can resist such a terrifying time, here are some of the thrilling highlights. The complete list of events is available on downtownfrightnight.com.

Zombiewalk Face Painting
3:30-5:00p.m. Free zombie face painting at the Downtown Library. Event sponsor T.A.G crew will provide and apply the face paint until 5:00 p.m. when the Zombiewalk officially starts.

Philharmonic Concert
4:00-5:00 p.m. "Lemony Snicket: The Composer is Dead" will be performed at the Embassy Theater, combining readings from Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events* saga along with original music for a live murder mystery. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children.

Old City Jail
5:00-9:00 p.m. The History Center will open the Old City Jail, which exhibits many artifacts of serial killer Sam McDonald. Admission to this jail, which housed inmates until 1971, is $2.

2nd Annual Zombie Walk
5:00-6:00 p.m. The mob will gather by the Allen County Public Library plaza and then be led around the streets by zombified employees from radio station MAJIC 95.1 and Comcast.

ARCH Haunted Bus Tours
7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. Take a tour of Fort Wayne's haunted sites. For $10, the 90-minute tour will visit over a dozen spooky locales. The tours begin in the Embassy Theatre lobby.

ARCH Fright Site Hikes
7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m. Meet in the lobby of the Embassy Theater for a walking tour at 7:30 and 9:30 of some of Fort Wayne's most notorious haunted locations. The 11:30 tour will leave from the Botanical Conservatory. Tickets are $2 for those under 18 and $5 for adults.

Phantom of the Opera
7:00 p.m. The 1925 silent film version of "Phantom Of The Opera" will show in the Embassy Theatre, accompanied by the historic Page Organ. Tickets are $4 for students and $7 for adults.

3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

PERFORMANCES

"Romeo and Juliet"
This Shakespearian classic will perform at First Presbyterian Theater for the next two weeks at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $2 for students if reservations are made by emailing thomhof@juno.com at least one day in advance. Adult tickets are $18.

"Quilt" A Musical Celebration
"Quilt: A Musical Celebration" will perform at the Main Branch of the Allen Country Public Library at 900 Library Plaza. The show focuses on the AIDS Memorial Quilt made in honor of AIDS victims who have died and showcases different stories of those affected by AIDS. The show runs at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $17 for adults at $10 for those 23 and younger.

Lord of the Dance
Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance will be at the Embassy Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from $27-$52 and are available from ticketmaster.com or from the Embassy's box office at (260) 424-5665.

REO Speedwagon
REO Speedwagon and Foghat will perform at the Embassy Theatre on Friday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available from ticketmaster.com or from the Embassy box office and cost $67.75, $59.75 or $49.75.

"Rocky Horror Picture Show"
"Rocky Horror Picture Show" will play at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory at 9:15 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24. The movie will be shown outside, weather permitting, and admission costs $2 for adults and $1 for those under 18.

Daughtry
Daughtry, along with Theory of a Deadman and Cavo, will perform at the Memorial Coliseum on Monday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost $31.50 or $41.50 and can be purchased from ticketmaster.com or from the Coliseum's ticket office at (800) 745-3000.

In the scare tonight

By Molly Zweig
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

Haunted attractions in Fort Wayne open for thrills, chills

Every October, Fort Wayne transforms into an epicenter of leaping pulse rates, air-sucking gasps and spine-tingling shivers. Behind the walls of each of these attractions lies horrors that earn the Summit City is a new moniker – Fort Frightening. At least until Nov. 1.

PLACE	HOURS	DATES	LOCATION	COST	FUN FACT	HISTORY	SCARIEST PART	BY THE NUMBERS
The Haunted Cave	7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday; 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday	Open Oct. 16-18, 21-25, and 28-31	4410 Arden Drive	$10	The Cave now has a choice of paths for a different experience each time.	The Cave began as a private party operation until it grew enough that the owners opened it up to the public.	The Cave has a haunted black room that holds the creepers and spooks visitor.	•2,000 visitors per weekend •25-35 volunteers
Haunted Black Castle and Forest	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Thursday; 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday	Open through Oct. 31	8965 Auburn Road	$9	The Black Forest has been rearranged to include new horrors to scare visitors.	The Castle was created after 3 or 4 people got the idea one afternoon. The Forest was added years later.	The Black Maze is full of fog machines are hard to navigate in the dark.	•75 volunteers working each night
Dr. Buzzsaw's Haunted Hospital	8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Halloween night; 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. all other nights	Open Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31	3114 U.S. 30 East, Warsaw, IN	$9	The hospital follows the terror of Dr. Eugene Buzsaw, who, after a freak accident, morphed into Dr. Buzzsaw.	The Hospital is the main source of income for the Baker Youth Club, an after-school program that helps kids in Warsaw stay off the streets.	The plot involving Dr. Buzzsaw offers suspense, as well as abundant guts, throughout the entire hospital.	•3,000 total patrons •60 volunteers working each night
Haunted Hotel	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Thursday; 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday	Open through Oct. 31	515 N. Jefferson Street, Huntington, IN	$10	Employees must attend summer training to learn how to properly work here.			
Haunted Jail	7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. other nights	Open every day except Oct. 19	611 E. Market Street, Columbia City, IN	$9	The jail is supposedly haunted by the ghost of Charles Butler, supposedly the only person ever executed in Whitley County.			

SOURCE: HAUNTEDHUNTINGTON.COM/GALLERIA

SOURCE: HEARTBEATINCAFE.COM/2008/10/

TAKE THREE

I HOPE THEY SERVE BEER IN HELL Rated R
Coventry 13

From the title alone, "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell" earns its R rating and then some. Based on the best-selling book with the same title, the film follows the exploits of Tucker Max, whose promiscuity, excessive drinking, and selfishness continually get him and his college buddies into trouble.

The movie covers only one chapter of the book, detailing the gruesome events of Max's best friend's bachelor party and its aftermath. Though it's a "see for yourself" type of film, the gross-out gags and outrageousness are in abundance.

Max is perfectly portrayed as a stereotypical player, but the rest of the cast is largely weak and unknown. The movie is rough around the edges, but the hilarity of the source material shines through. Had the movie not been based on a true story, it would lack much of its merit. The novel *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell* is more enjoyable than its film adaptation, but the movie as a standalone is worthwhile nonetheless and helps the legend of Tucker Max thrive. – *Taylor Thompson*

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

COVENTRY 13: No longer costs $1.00 and 50-cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $3.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie. It's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

THE INVENTION OF LYING Rated PG-13
Coventry 13

Lies and falsehoods have been an inescapable aspect of socialization since olden times, but "The Invention of Lying" presents a different premise: in a world in which humans have not evolved the ability to lie, hapless screenwriter Mark Bellison (Ricky Gervais) becomes the first man to fib, and he is then believed without question.

At this point, "Lying" could veer in any foreseeable direction, but rather than taking the guaranteed comedic approach of humorously inconsiderate behavior, Bellison balances inevitable selfishness with kindness.

"Lying" is at times riotously funny, due to the efforts of Bellison's secretary (Tina Fey), who punctuates conversation with scathing insults. Despite its tongue-in-cheek humor, the film addresses deeper philosophies as Bellison concocts the afterlife and "the man in the sky" to console his dying mother, giving birth to organized religion.

The biggest flaw of "Lying" is its misrepresentation–the commercials advertise a comedy, when it is an occasionally humorous, sweetly sensitive feel-good film about religion and unconditional love. – *Adrienne Westenfeld*

ZOMBIELAND Rated R
Rave

"Zombieland" is indefinable. In the numerous genres and subgenres of both horror and comedy, "Zombieland" manages to defy all of them, and in its own revolutionary way, stake out its own claim in the audience's hearts.

The movie follows Columbus Ohio–characters' names are based on where they're headed in "Zombieland"–and his narrated self-made survival guide in the post-apocalyptic world. Columbus is heading to Ohio from Austin, Texas to try to find his family and along the way he meets Tallahassee, played by Woody Harrelson, as well as two girls named Wichita (Emma Stone) and Little Rock (Abigail Breslin). Another surprising character in the movie is Bill Murray, who makes a cameos appearance when the group takes a turn and decides to go to his mansion in Hollywood.

"Zombieland" has a perfect, refreshing blend of realistic gore, diverse forms of humor, fantastic punch lines, a bit of romance, and still enough room for a bit of a tug at the heartstrings. Overall, the movie is a big relief to the dying zombie world, no pun intended. – *Cam Kaminski*

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
A new club highlighting Asian cultures has students buzzing. But it's not a "cult or something like that," said one member. 2A

LIFE
Students are stocking up on their scuff as the perennially anticipated No-Shave November approaches. 5A

FEATURE
Executive editor Derek Luttrell revisits an issue forgotten by most upperclassmen — the hardship of everyday bus rides. 8A

OPINION
Obama's promise to overturn the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" unspoken rule may just be a case of too little done too late. 3A

SPORTS
The varsity boys' soccer team has room for little error as they advance full-throttle to the state finals competition. 6A

ONLINE
Download archived issues, catch up on the video announcements and flip through unpublished photo galleries.

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Loss of counselor to Academy increases workloads

Departure of Dobias causes Student Services to ramp up efforts for class selection, college application help

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

While they may not be seen as much as some students and parents would like, no one can dispute the immeasurable work that the school guidance counselors do for their charges. However, this year, the loss of counselor Brian Dobias to the freshmen academy has increased the workload for the remaining four counselors in the main building, and has therefore hindered counselors' ability to make a more personal connection with students.

Dobias's students were split up among the remaining four counselors, leaving each of the counselors with an additional fifth of the sophomore, junior and senior classes for which they are responsible for things like scheduling, making sure students graduate and discussing post-graduate plans.

"I have a lot more students to see in every grade level," counselor Diane Rice said. "I just can't give the individual attention that I have in the past. There are things that I would go out of my way to do before, [but] now it's just not possible."

The loss of Dobias has drastically increased the student-to-counselor ratio for the worse.

"There are a large number of students, so when you start with students for their senior interviews, their junior interviews and then sophomores too, something

SEE 'COUNSELORS,' PAGE 2A

Guidance counselor Tom Quigley reviews Ball State materials with Rachel Warren (11). Quigley's colleague, Brian Dobias, now advises students at the freshman academy.

DOWN WITH THE SICKNESS

the silent treatment

Administration remains mum regarding presence of swine flu in school hallways

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The undeniable H1N1 epidemic has people crying swine flu left and right, but with good reason. In the United States, over 1,000 deaths have occurred due to H1N1, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Here at Homestead, many cases of swine flu have been confirmed, and an even greater number of students suspect that they too have swine flu, but have not had the blood test to confirm it. However, because the attendance office is not informed as to whether absences are occurring specifically due to swine flu, the number of students infected is unknown.

As a reaction to the spreading of the swine flu, numerous rumors have also been spreading concerning whether or not

SEE 'SWINE FLU,' PAGE 2A

Dani Harris (11) suffered from swine flu-like symptoms for a week before returning to school. Her case was officially confirmed.

H1N1 CASES

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stopped releasing statistics on the number of cases in August due to the rapidly spreading nature of the virus.
- California and Texas confirmed the first laboratory cases in late April.
- As of Oct. 9, 46 states have been categorized as having "widespread influenza activity."

H1N1 DEATHS

- The first swine flu-related death was in Texas and was reported on April 29.
- As of Oct. 28, the H1N1 virus has claimed 1,404 lives in North America.
- As of Oct. 28, the H1N1 virus has claimed 5,938 lives worldwide.
- Indiana's first H1N1 death occurred on July 5.

SOURCE: WWW.CDC.GOV

ORDERS FROM THE STATE

Faculty, students mourn half days

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

For students and teachers alike, half days were good days. Each half day was considered one of 180 required instructional days, and each resulted in brief classes and an early dismissal. However, as of the 2009-2010 school year, half days no longer count as a full day of school. As a result, both parent-teacher conferences and first semester finals will last the duration of a normal school day.

The Indiana Department of Education has established that an instructional day must be a minimum of 6 hours long for middle schools and high schools. This new policy means that half days aren't taken into consideration when counting instructional days. According to Tony Bennett, the Indiana superintendent of public instruction, the policy was made in the hopes of promoting academic achievement by ensuring students were spending time in school.

"We hope these changes are a positive for parents and students. However, the influence [of these changes] is hard to tell at this point."
RICK SMITH
Principal

Prior to this change in policy, parent-teacher conferences were held on two half days and would take place in the evening. This school year, parent-teacher conferences will all be held this upcoming Friday during normal school hours from 7:10 in the morning until 2:40 in the afternoon, while students will receive the day off. The conferences will last ten minutes each, as they have in past years.

Principal Rick Smith said that changes were made "to comply with state expectations and rules.

"We hope these changes are a positive for parents and students," Smith said. "However, the influence [of these changes] is hard to tell at this point."

The primary concern associated with the change in parent-teacher conference scheduling is that parents will be unable to attend the conferences because of the inconvenient hours.

"It may be harder for parents to come in during work hours," Steve Lake, assistant principal, said.

In addition to affecting parent-teacher confer-

SEE 'HALF DAYS,' PAGE 2A

ENNETT'S IMPACT

The following dates were intended to be half days at Homestead before Bennett instituted his new rule:

- Oct. 29, 2009
- Oct. 30, 2009
- Jan. 15, 2010
- June 10, 2010

PHOTO: WWW.IN.GOV

BRIEFS

BOYS' SWIM AND DIVE TEAM
The boys' swim and dive team season begins Nov. 9. All athletes must have a physical on file in the athletic office prior to the first day of practice. The first practice of the season will be held immediately after school at Summit Middle School on the same date.

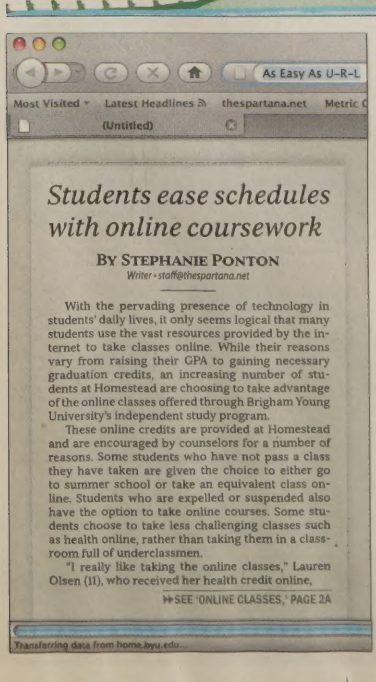
ANONYMOUS BLUE AUDITIONS
Auditions for Anonymous Blue, the show choir's back-up band, will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the orchestra room. Sign up and get your music from show choir director Curtis Shaw in Room 404.

FIRST STAND MEETING
STAND, Homestead's anti-genocide club, is accepting new members. Those who are interested in joining can attend the group's first meeting from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3, in room 123.

IPFW CAMPUS VISIT DAY
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne will be hosting a campus visit day for prospective students from 1 to 3 p.m. on Nov. 1. Information on the event can be picked up in Student Services.

CROSS COUNTRY WRAP
Any girl who ran cross country this season should turn in their uniform, warm-ups and lock as soon as possible. In order to receive an award at the team dinner, these items must be returned to girls' cross country coach Sara Wyss in room 930 before or after school this week. Runners may also pick up results and comment cards when they turn in these materials.

PHOTO BY LAUREN HOOK



Students ease schedules with online coursework

By Stephanie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

With the pervading presence of technology in students' daily lives, it only seems logical that many students use the vast resources provided by the internet to take classes online. While their reasons vary from raising their GPA to gaining necessary graduation credits, an increasing number of students at Homestead are choosing to take advantage of the online classes offered through Brigham Young University's independent study program.

These online credits are provided at Homestead and are encouraged by counselors for a number of reasons. Some students who have not pass a class they have taken are given the choice to either go to summer school or take an equivalent class online. Students who are expelled or suspended also have the option to take online courses. Some students choose to take less challenging classes such as health online, rather than taking them in a classroom full of underclassmen.

"I really like taking the online classes," Lauren Olsen (11), who received her health credit online,

SEE 'ONLINE CLASSES,' PAGE 2A

Fort Wayne Police Sergeant Geoff Anspach directs traffic after school before the weekend. The district department of transportation requires that a police officer manage the intersection of Homestead Road and Aboite Center Road from 2:35 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. after school every weekday.

PHOTO BY BEN MARCELL

Traffic officer earns mixed reviews

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Policemen directing traffic after school have been the norm since before most students can remember. However, many students, frustrated with the daily traffic, only see how slow they are moving, and question the presence of the police directing traffic altogether.

After school between 2:35 and 2:50 p.m., the school's transportation department requests that members of the Fort Wayne Police Department direct traffic at the intersections of Homestead Road and Aboite Center Road, Liberty Mills Road and Homestead Road and the intersection where Homestead Road meets the entrances to Homestead and Summit Middle School.

While many are familiar with the police directing traffic, the rationale behind having them do so is less clear for many.

"We have lots of kids crossing the street with lots of cars going and it's safer for them if we're there."
GEOFF ANSPACH
Fort Wayne Police Sergeant

Fort Wayne Police Sergeant Geoff Anspach has been directing traffic outside of Homestead for 17 years.

"I think it's primarily a financial consideration," Anspach said. "The buses have to get out so they can drop off all the kids and then go to the elementary schools so they don't have to run two different sets of buses."

Anspach says that the three intersections that are directed are those

SEE 'TRAFFIC,' PAGE 2A

Asian Club lures culture lovers

By Nathan Berning
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Asian Club opened its doors last Friday to all students interested in learning more about the vast richness of Asian cultures.

The club starts directly after school every other Friday in the freshmen seminar room. Each meeting will last from 2:45 to 3:30, and all students interested in Asian culture are invited to check it out.

"We will do many different activities that originate from Asia, or [we will] explain more about Asia," Varsha Venkat (10), club founder, said. "We will probably do things like oriental crafts. Plus, we have free snacks for those who want free food."

Asian culture varies greatly, but Asian Club aims to tie the culture with common threads that are relatable to students.

"I think it is great that there is a club that allows students to learn more about world cultures," member Omar Nadeem (11) said. "A lot of my friends are not informed about culture in general, and Asian culture is very interesting."

The club is very laid back, with about 15 people attending the first meeting. Many of the people at the club are friends of Venkat, but Venkat encourages any curious student to consider coming to a meeting. He hopes that the membership will steadily increase as more people discover the club and become satisfied members.

"There will always be free food and tons of friends to be made," Venkat said. "It's meant to be a very relaxed environment so that members can enjoy the positive aspects of Asia in a comfortable way. Plus, it was only the first meeting, and we plan on expanding the amount of students involved with the club. It should only grow as it becomes more stable and more people give it a try."

The club however, is not to be confused with Anime Club. While Anime Club focuses strictly on one aspect of Japanese culture, Asian Club hopes to represent a wide cross section of Asian culture.

According to schooldigger.com, only 3.7% of students at Homestead in the year 2008 were Asian. However, students of every ethnicity are strongly encouraged to attend the club meetings. Though Asians are a distinct minority at Homestead, the club hopes to breed tolerance and knowledge of the distinct cultures that come from these countries.

"Most people wouldn't know how many cultures there are just in Asia," Oliver Berning (9) said. "It's typical of [students] to stereotype Asians as only Chinese, but in reality, Asia includes India, Cambodia, China and many other countries, and many of these countries have varying cultures and languages."

While the club currently consists of a higher percentage of Asians than is representative of the school, the ultimate goal is to spread awareness of these Asian cultures to those who wouldn't otherwise be exposed to them.

"This club isn't meant to be an Asian cult or something like that," attendee Samuel Hollis (12) said. "I think it is a great way to meet other students and share your passion for Asia with them. It is also a good way to learn more about a culture, and it never hurts to learn."

Stephanie Merkling is the club sponsor for Asian Club. She was glad when the opportunity to lead a school club arose.

"I thought it was a great way to meet students," Merkling said. "This is my first year at Homestead and I thought that Asian Club would be a good way for me to get involved with student activities. I am also a freshman class sponsor, and when Varsha approached me about this opportunity I was very interested. The chance to branch out and work with upper-classmen as well as freshmen and sophomores was a highlight for the job. This club will be loads of fun for anyone who wishes to find out more about Asia."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Left to right: Vesna Petrovic (9), George Chen (12) and Mieke Peels (12) watch on in stitches as Asian Club president Varsha Venkat (10) introduces herself to the first-time attendees. The club meets every other Friday.

▸▸SWINE FLU CONTINUED FROM 1A

the school will be shut down due to the epidemic. According to school policy, at least 50% of the school population must be absent in order for the school board to determine how long school will not be held. However, this means 1,100 students must miss school, which currently seems highly unlikely.

Many people in Southwest Allen County have turned to the H1N1 vaccine and the regular flu season vaccine for protection against the disease. The vaccine was recently offered at many local places in Fort Wayne, such as select Walmart, Target and Kroger stores. However, the Fort Wayne Allen County Department of Health released a report last week stating that they are temporarily out of the H1N1 vaccine, in both the injection and nasal spray forms. The Health Department anticipates more vaccines will arrive within the next week, and will make any announcements about clinics at that time.

As vaccines are running out, people are taking extra precaution to make sure they do not get infected.

"You want to make sure to wash your hands, stay three to six feet away from other people," Beth Quigley, school nurse, said. "The antibacterial gels only work if your hands don't have grime on them. If you cough on your hands or have mucus on them, the gel won't kill all the germs. Another good defense is to not share water bottles, utensils. cups, and plates."

Teachers have also been warned to send students to the nurse's office if they are frequently coughing, blowing their noses, or sneezing. Students also are required to wear a mask if they develop symptoms of the swine flu.

If a student does get infected with the H1N1 virus, they are to rest at home until they have been free of fever for 24 hours.

"My doctor prescribed me the medication called Tamiflu, the medication that cures swine flu but that must be in your system one to two days after you get the symptoms," Erin Bradley (10) said. "Luckily, I went to the doctor soon enough to be prescribed this medication."

"If you have a cough, it should be gone before you return to school, or at least down to the point where it is a minimum and you can keep from coughing frequently," Quigley said.

> "Being out of school for a week was a nightmare and I don't think I could deal with it again."
>
> **SARAH ALI (12)**
> *Suffered H1N1-like Symptoms*

Although some students that have not gotten the swine flu are afraid they will receive it, other students that have had the H1N1 infection can potentially get another strain of it. As the H1N1 flu rapidly spreads, it will mutate and possibly infect people a second time.

"I'm definitely wary of getting a different strain. Both of my younger brothers already caught a different strain of H1N1, and I'm staying as far away from them as I can," Sarah Ali (12), who had swine flu, said. "Being out of school for a week was a nightmare and I don't think I could deal with it again."

Even with all of the hype about the swine flu being a possible epidemic, washing your hands frequently and staying away from those who are sick are still very important and effective ways of combatting the virus.

"There are more than 450 different viruses," Quigley said. "But the most important thing you want to make sure you do is to use the right techniques to prevent the spreading of the swine flu."

▸▸HALF DAYS CONTINUED FROM 1A

ences, the no half day policy will also affect first semester finals. In previous years, the last day of finals would be held a on half day. Rescheduling the semester finals was a necessary response to the new policy.

Although no final plans have been made, assistant principal Jennifer Bay expects the schedule to be two days of preparing for finals, one day with two tests, one day with three tests, and one last day with two tests, as it was done in past years. During this time, teachers will not be teaching regular curriculum. The main focus will be reviewing for and taking finals. Finals will take place with little change for the better or for the worse.

"It's a neutral change," Bay said. "It's just something we have to do."

The general opinion on the no half day policy is negative.

Kinille George (11) says that she feels that the new policy is "ridiculous." She argues that the changes will make it more difficult for parents to attend parent-teacher conferences. George also felt that the schedule for final exams was flawed.

"What do the teachers have to teach?" she said. "Everything should've been taught [before the exams.]"

James Schmidt, a social studies teacher, takes a more neutral stance, although he expresses similar concerns that the change will be inconvenient for working parents. Schmidt describes the finals schedule as being "pretty similar" to previous years.

All changes made will comply with new state policies.

"It's a change the state made," Bay said. "We have to change, too."

▸▸ONLINE CLASSES CONTINUED FROM 1A

said. "I had a year to take the course which was nice because I had a lot of free time to do it. I could just answer the questions on the internet and get immediate results. The only thing I had to do at school was the final."

Students who take online courses must register online or by mail with a program the school uses called BYU or through Indiana University. Every course is nonrefundable and costs an average of $124. The number of lessons and assignments vary per course, and certain courses require students to read books or write papers. Students have a year to fully complete the course; however, if they do not pass the final exam, they do not get credit for the course.

Though they have many merits, online courses are still relatively unpopular amongst students; there are only about 70 students who are currently taking online courses through BYU, less than 3% of all students at Homestead. But for those students who are taking online courses, many feel as though it's a great help. With a simple sign up process and the flexibility to do the lessons on their schedule, many students who have taken classes online boast about the benefits this method offers.

"I took the class to boost my GPA because it was .001 from where it needed to be. My counselor suggested [online courses]," Erica Wurst (12) said of her rationale for taking a business math course. "It was really easy; it was set up pretty well with examples and practice problems, then a quiz with each lesson and then a final exam."

While counselors often encourage students to take online classes, doing so should be done after a discussion with a counselor about the best options for the student. Students who are interested in taking online courses for credit instead of taking the class at school should only do so if they do not have any more room in their schedule. Health, for example, is one of the most common classes students take online. However, counselors advise those who can to take health at school so that they do not miss valuable in-class activities and collaboration with peers.

"For some students, it's a great way to get their credits," Amy Hamilton, counselor, said. "This is a way for counselors to help students graduate on time. I still feel that a more intense, daily, teacher-led classroom would be the best [for] learning. However, every child is different and some learn best with online courses."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

A stack of pamphlets for Brigham Young University's online courses is displayed in Student Services. The distance learning arm of the school offers classes for gym credits.

▸▸TRAFFIC CONTINUED FROM 1A

that have the highest number of buses that need to get through without traffic to slow them down.

As well as being a matter of business, having the police direct traffic serves a secondary function: they make sure that drivers are safe amongst the chaos.

"It's also a safety thing," Anspach said. "We have lots of kids walking and crossing the street with lots of cars going and it's safer for them if we're there."

While those directing traffic have the important job of keeping such a congested area flowing, those who must drive through the mess daily have varying opinions on the effectiveness of the policemen's presence.

"I think it probably helps traffic flow," Adrian Farley (11) said. "But I tend to avoid those intersections altogether both before and after school by taking Eggeman [Road]. There are just too many cars; it takes way too long to go down Homestead [Road]."

While those who can take alternate routes to avoid the overcrowded intersections do so, many simply must wait for the buses after school before they can leave.

"It sucks waiting for them everyday," Chad Cole (11) said. "That main intersection [at Aboite Center and Homestead roads] is always really busy, and a lot of the time it seems like the traffic cop doesn't let everyone go evenly, so it takes even longer."

Whether or the not the traffic directors speed up or slow down traffic, their purpose is to keep the buses moving and everyone safe. Regardless of what some students may think, they do their jobs as effectively as possible.

In addition, those who do not obey the police that direct traffic are subject to full legal persecution under the law.

▸▸COUNSELORS CONTINUED FROM 1A

has to give," counselor Rosemary Bobish said. "It has definitely put a crunch on our time. However, if a student has an emergency, it does not affect them at all; a counselor will see anyone in an emergency."

The loss of a counselor not only puts stress on the remaining counselors, but also on students. Students may have to wait for days or sometimes weeks before they can meet with their counselors, and when the day finally arrives, they may have to sit in student services for some time.

"Every time I've wanted to meet with my counselor, they have gotten me in fairly quickly," Jacob Fehlhaber (11) said. "But when I do go down to student services, I've had to wait for up to 20 minutes before meeting with my counselor."

Counselors have also noticed an inability for students to meet with them at times. They notice that certain times of the year are busy, causing hardships in scheduling appointments.

"The primary way [that] I think it's harder for students to get in is we have busy times where we're seeing [certain] grade levels," Rice said. "In the past, those busy times would have [lasted] a couple of weeks; this time, for me, it was about four and a half weeks before I was finished with my seniors. We're really going to see the impact when it comes to scheduling, because, for instance, I have 432 students that I'll have to schedule."

Some freshmen, sophomores and juniors are finding that appointments with their counselors are being postponed in lieu of senior meetings.

> "I do feel like I give quicker answers, sometimes by way of e-mail, than I have in the past. Students are not as frustrated with it as parents are because parents are used to us returning their phone calls very promptly, having more time with us and so on."
>
> **DIANE RICE**
> *Guidance Counselor*

"I e-mailed Mrs. Bobish asking her if I could meet up with her and talk about my GPA and taking online classes, and she told me that she was currently doing senior meetings and that I'd have my junior meeting in a few months," Amanda Arnold (11) said.

One of the counselors' most important jobs is helping seniors with college admissions. Students often rely on them for help with how to apply for college and when to take certain tests like the SAT and the ACT. However, now that more students are assigned to each counselor, it is harder for individualized assistance to occur. Many feel as though the burden is put on parents and students to figure it out for themselves.

"I do feel like I give quicker answers, sometimes by way of email, than I have in the past" Rice said. "Students are not as frustrated with it as parents are, because parents are used to us returning their phone calls very promptly, having more time with us and so on."

Basically, more help for the counselors comes down to a matter of opinion of where funds should go; as a result of the state of the economy, Homestead can't have unlimited funding for everything.

"As a school, as a community, we need to pull together, and people need to make their opinions known about where they want their resources spent," Rice said. "And I'm not saying that it would be [the guidance department], but where do you want your funding? Do you want it with the teachers or do you want more of the individual care and planning, the college process? You can't have it all."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: Beginning next school year, classes will not be in session the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break and the Friday before Spring Break in order to boost attendance status.

Status: True. According to the Office of the Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) superintendent, administrators, teachers and parents all support the idea of having scheduled days off before vacations. In order to maintain a four-star status, the district must maintain high attendance rates. On a typical day, Southwest Allen County Schools runs on a 97 percent attendance rate. However, last year before Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break, attendance fell 5 percent and 12 percent, respectively. If attendance rates continue to drop even with the implemented day off, the decision may be overturned in future school years. – *Hana Svetlovics*

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO WWW.TIME.COM

Human rights activists flooded the National Mall Oct. 11 to protest President Barack Obama's delays on advancing the interests of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The night before, Obama promised to take aggressive action in repealing the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" rule governing the U.S. military. Many observers, including staff writer Chrissy Verhoff, view his pledge as a respectable move, but still not enough in the bigger picture.

{ OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET }

LEFT AND WRITE | 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Overturn

The Issue: While addressing Human Rights Campaign dinner attendees on Oct. 10, President Barack Obama vowed to end the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which bans homosexuals from openly serving in any branch of the U.S. military.

Repeal a small move for better

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Despite President Obama's pre-election promise to end the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy, gay rights advocates are still waiting for change.

Considering additional troops that may soon be sent to Afghanistan, DADT may negatively affect national security. Since its introduction in 1993, over 13,000 service members have been discharged from the military simply for being homosexual. Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach, who has loyally served in the Air Force for 18 years, may be discharged due to DADT policy.

A poll conducted in 2008 by Washington Post and ABC News reported that 75% of Americans believe that openly gay people should be allowed to serve in the military. After all, why do anti-discriminatory laws apply to jobs, but not the military? Nearly all Westernized countries allow homosexuals to serve in the military, so why shouldn't the United States?

Another controversial issue is The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which states that the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriages, and states are not forced to recognize such marriages from other states, either. Before being elected, Obama pledged to repeal DOMA; however, he has not yet made an effort to do so. In fact, during June, the administration filed a brief defending DOMA, which causes gay rights activists to wonder if a change will ever be made.

Although Obama might act on these issues eventually, neither policies will likely be repealed any time soon.

Policy preserves military prestige

By Emma Haverstock
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

In his 1992 presidential campaign, Bill Clinton indicated that he would improve the status of gays in the military.

Once in office, however, when changes were met by a storm of protest from the public, he was advised by leaders of the military that it was of utmost importance that the reputation of the military be maintained. Potential recruits would stay away in droves if homosexuality were to be associated with the military. While the percentage of civilians who support the inclusion of gays and lesbians in the military is rapidly increasing, it is not so in the military. Just look at a 2006 Zogby International Poll, which indicates that only 26 percent of military members are open to allowing homosexuals to serve.

Clinton could not make good on campaign promises. However, he came to a compromise; "Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)". Military personnel were not to inquire, and of course were not to confess homosexual proclivities.

There is no doubt that the concerns of the military leadership were valid; however, there is another side to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that must be considered. Under former policy, homosexuals were open to harassment and persecution. The DADT policy allows gays into the armed forces without fear of persecution or outright rejection. The tacit agreement between society and its homosexual component had always been: don't be flagrant, and we won't reject you. Live, and let live. DADT is a variation of this standard that we can all accept and should not be abandoned.

U.S. strives too hard to flex global muscle

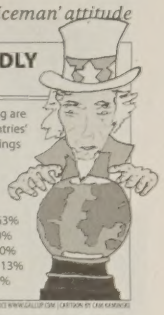
Iran conflict exemplifies 'world policeman' attitude

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

WORLDLY VIEW

The following are foreign countries' approval ratings of Barack Obama's presidency thus far:

- Canada - 63%
- Russia - 20%
- Ireland - 80%
- Pakistan - 13%
- Egypt - 25%



SOURCE WWW.GALLUP.COM | CARTOON BY CAM KASNICKA

On Sept. 27, Iran clandestinely tested a missile-launching system and numerous missiles of various ranges. The United States immediately suspected malicious conduct and requested to investigate the underground uranium facility in which the missiles were constructed, a request Iran denied.

The United States has a long history of conscientious but detrimental entanglement in international conflict, a tendency that alienates other world powers and harms this country. Politicians consider policing the world a moral imperative and perceive the nation as a global savior. America has taken it upon itself to "save the world from communism," to put down fledgling governments (creating interminable poverty in doing so) and to supervise Middle Eastern bloodshed, therein creating more. Yet, in a U.S. State Department poll of 18 countries, 52 percent responded that American international influence is largely negative. The trend is blindingly apparent. Involvement with the United States becomes akin to the kiss of death – while its intentions may be valiant, the byproducts are lethal.

The Bush administration relentlessly pursued unnecessary intervention, and repeatedly stressed Iraq's threat to America, in hopes of making this threat true. Bush was merely another character in America's endless tale of dubious foreign policy. The United States had no right or justification to invade Iraq based upon the paltry evidence available, and yet the timeless mistake of overstepping boundaries was again made. Due to the erroneous mentality that the United States is the world policeman, America is now embroiled in a futile conflict that causes this nation to hemorrhage funds for which no valid motivation remains – or ever existed.

Much of the quandary stems from the political conviction that the United States is the authority on international conflict. Too often, America fails to consult its global partners before orchestrating a response. While self-reliance is valuable, America is not a vacuum; the negative repercussions of ill-advised diplomatic decisions will encompass more nations than solely the United States, and therefore, those nations have every right to participate in determining the verdicts. The United Nations should be consulted frequently before action is taken.

America claims to promote human rights and democracy overseas, but if these intentions are so virtuous, why is the world's opinion of the United States generally negative? In a study conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, 13 of 15 countries stated a desire to see America work cooperatively rather than unilaterally.

Furthermore, what hubris convinces officials that the United States is better equipped, intellectually or strategically, to solve global issues? Politicians cannot presume to be more knowledgeable about the plight of citizens across the world than the citizens themselves. America's presumption of superiority is yet another reason for international hatred.

The United States needs to stop looking for trouble across the globe, for there is no way to command a free world without irreparably shattering it. America cannot continue to strike out on its own or to exact presumptuous demands upon the Middle East, lest it destroy the free world it aims to protect.

cookie-cutter compromise

Gration incompetent authority for Darfur conflict

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

"We've got to think about giving out cookies. Kids, countries, they react to gold stars, smiley faces, handshakes, agreements, talk."

When I campaigned for Obama two summers ago, I was not so naïve as to believe that he would follow through on all of his promises. And yet, after gaping at the truly naïve words of Obama's appointee to special envoy to Sudan, retired Air Force General Scott Gration, I could not help but feel the pricking bitterness of fading hopes – hopes that had been faint from the beginning.

Darfur is a genocide of attrition – kill and displace, until the survivors are left with nothing to live on. Khartoum, the stronghold of Sudanese government, wealth, and power, has broken countless peace contracts, time and time again. U.N. estimates put the death toll at approximately 300,000 innocents, with more than two million others forced from their homes. Sexual violence against women is widespread, just one of the many horrifying components of genocide in Darfur. Are these horrors what Omar Hassan al-Bashir, a president indicted on war-crime charges, will receive a gold star for?

> "Moreover, the situation in Darfur is now officially treated by the United States as genocide, a classification Gration would never use."
>
> **CELIA GRUNDMAN**
> *Opinion Editor*

Gration even gave credit to the Sudanese government for letting a select few aid organizations return to the Darfur region after Bashir expelled 16 aid organizations in lieu of his indictment –16 crucial aid organizations that millions relied on in their makeshift refugee camps.

Fortunately, the harsh peacefulness of Gration's methods might be somewhat restricted if the Obama administration makes good on its newly released Sudan policy. While Gration preached conciliation with a government that has murdered and will continue to murder, the new U.S. policy implements a combination of incentives and pressures. Moreover, the situation in Darfur is now officially treated by the United States as genocide, a classification Gration would never use.

On the campaign trail, Obama touted strong sanctions and a no-fly zone to prevent the bombing of Darfurian villages. I was led to believe that real action might be taken, especially given the confrontational stance of Joe Biden. Now, the situation is more delicate than ever. A 20-year-old war between Khartoum and the South is on the verge of sparking up once again and the genocide in Sudan's western region, Darfur, is only being exacerbated. These conflicts must be resolved swiftly – even though they have dragged on since 2003.

Sudanese government is tough to beat, as they are buoyed by the oil profits and support they gain from China. Still, while the new policy is nowhere close to the militant one I can only dream of, it is stronger than ever before. Gration's innocently blind policies are now curbed, and pressures such as possible U.N. sanctions are added to the pot. And yet, the new strategy is void and null if not implemented. We as constituents must continue to pressure a reluctant government to follow through on their promises.

The 20th century is chock full of missed opportunities – Armenia, the"Holocaust, Cambodia, the gassing of the Kurds, Rwanda. As silent bystanders, as a nation, we have let millions perish – and, given the historical reluctance of our nation, another Kosovo will not come for years, if not decades. Another century, mayhap. Until then, the compromise of our new Darfur policy is the only hope for the starving, beaten masses of the 21st century's first genocide.

CARTOON BY CAM KASNICKA

Nathan Whetstone (12) examines his lunch tray — overflowing with steak dippers, mashed potatoes, and buttered rolls — after returning from the counter. The sight in front of him may become a rarity in American cafeterias if public schools heed the warnings of an Institute of Medicine panel. Their study, released last week, suggests that calorie limitations be placed on meals offered by the National School Lunch Program. The effort is aimed at curbing obesity among students aged 12 to 19 years.

PHOTO BY KYLE WILCOX

Personal discretion remains factor in cafeteria decisions

Cinnamon rolls, pizza and unlimited amounts of cheese and ranch dressing are among the many and various items offered to Homestead students for lunch. Like most other schools, our healthy options are few and of low quality, consisting mainly of stale veggie platters and apples.

White House chef Sam Kass, who has been particularly saddened by the low quality of the National School Lunch Program, will be pleased to know of the recently released suggestions of an Institute of Medicine panel. Their proposed guidelines mainly focus on limiting calories and sodium to halt the rising percentage of childhood obesity, which, for 12- to 19-year-olds, has more than tripled over the past 25 years.

For high school lunches, the panel recommends a limitation of 850 calories. Sodium would be cut to 740 milligrams across the span of a decade, which is less than half of the 1,600 milligrams that an average high school lunch currently contains. Whether these recommendations will be followed is yet to be seen; as the panel notes, lunch costs would rise by approximately nine percent. Still, the National School Lunch Program's nutritional standards have been neglected for far too long, having not been revamped in over a decade.

Of course, high school students will always have the ultimate say in what they choose. The panel's goals are honorable, but difficult to regulate. Smaller servings may be the solution, although students will always find ways to circumvent such regulation. But by providing more appealing, healthy food, such as fresh veggies, fruits and legumes, as well as by replacing refined grains with whole wheat, as the panel suggests, students will have more opportunities to make the right decisions.

High school lunches will always be a matter of choice. Our school should provide both sides of the food spectrum for students to choose from, even if costs increase.

THE ED BOARD
Patrick Svitek • psvitek@thespartana.net

Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer
Hana Svetlovics

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *Imposing calorie limits is a respectable move, but proper nutrition starts with lifestyle.*

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

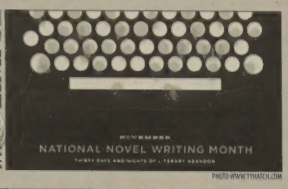
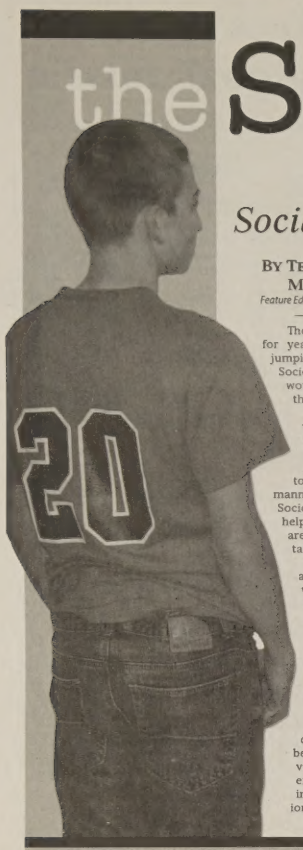


PHOTO WWW.TYPIATCH.COM

National Novel Writing Month provides creative writers with recognition with aid from sponsors. The goal of the month is to reward writers and to inspire others to do the same. The competition includes an on-the-spot writing with no pre-planning required. Only a basic outline or character list is required, creating fairness throughout the competitors. Many students from the school are competing in this contest, which will end late in the month of November.

[LIFE@THESPARTANA.NET]



the sociological experiment

Social norms created by students conforming to new trends

By Tess Anglin and Molly Zwieg
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

The question has been asked for years: if your friends were jumping off a cliff, would you? Sociologically speaking, you would probably jump with them.

Explanations to why society does things a certain way are hard to come by, but the reasons for which people continue to perform tasks in a certain manner are easy to characterize. Sociology, the study of societies, helps to explain why humans are compelled to act in a certain indefinable manner.

"The group becomes a major influence on what we do," Jim Schmidt, sociology teacher, said. When people are acting a certain manner, those around are more likely to act similarly. People roll the bands of their Soffe shorts and clap after a performance only because it is expected.

Sociological experiments are effortless to conduct without lab coats, beakers, or measuring devices. Below are two classic, experiments to test social influence and deviant behavior.

Every society has its own cultural norms, or conventions that are accepted by the society. When someone breaks these norms, they partake in deviant behavior.

Teenagers and adolescents tend to want to follow norms more than other societal demographics.

"Teenagers feel a great need to be part of a group," Schmidt said. He also said that the peer pressure they experience pulls them to make certain choices. Even though teenagers are generally regarded as rebellious, they still want to go along with the group.

"They're also seeking [to establish] their position in society," Schmidt said of those who break social norms.

> "Teenagers feel a great need to be part of a group. They're also seeking [to establish] their position in society."
>
> **JIM SCHMIDT**
> *Sociology Teacher*

▶ Experiment #1: Stop anywhere and look at the ceiling to see how many people follow suit. This works best if there's nothing on the ceiling.

▶ Procedure: First student walks in a crowded hallway and stops while looking upward. Other students, teachers, and faculty will begin to become suspicious of the student looking upward, and will look up as well to go along with the behavior.

Do not be discouraged if others make comments about the odd action, such as "what's he doing?" or "why is that crazy girl staring at the ceiling?" These are expected, as others will comment on the deviant behavior.

▶ Explanation: When a student stops in the middle of a crowded hallway, he or she naturally draws attention. However, by looking upward at the ceiling, passersby begin to question why the person is looking at the ceiling and will look up, as well.

This tendency to want to follow along with another is called social influence. By having one person do something, others around them are more prone to copy them simply due to human nature.

"If I saw someone looking up, I wouldn't question why," Daniel Madar (9) said. "I would just instinctively look up, too."

Madar demonstrates the key reason of why this experiment works; it is human instinct to do what other humans see being done without question and this social influence makes such outcomes possible.

▶ Experiment #2: Stand backwards in the lunch line.

▶ Procedure: Student faces the opposite way and walks backwards through the lunch line, resulting in many confused looks from others who face forward. Again, ignore annoyed comments from others as to this deviant behavior.

▶ Explanation: The norm of standing or walking in a line is facing forward, which comes without explanation or reasoning. When a student breaks a social norm and disrupts what is socially acceptable, such as walking the "wrong way" in the lunch line, surrounding students are bothered. When norms are disrupted, humans are naturally upset because it is not what they expect or what they are comfortable with.

"Standing backwards violates the goal of the line," Schmidt said. When norms are broken, the deviant behavior can cause conflict, dysfunction, or even protest among those affected.

"If someone were to hold up the line, I'd be kind of annoyed," said Alex Barnard (11). Other students may even try to get behavior back to the norm.

Many students would react similarly to Barnard. However, if a greater change occurred and the norm was further ostracized, the reaction would be greater than mild annoyance.

"I would probably ask them to move forward," sociology student Kelli Beutler (12) said. Beutler said that the behavior would "weir[d] her out.

▶ Conclusion: Teenagers are a perfect sample to study social influence. Though they often choose rebellious behavior, many will follow social norms in order to fit in.

"We either do the exact same or the opposite of others," Beutler said. Acceptance of social influence and intolerance of deviant behavior are characteristic of teenagers.

Despite this harsh reality of conformity, there are some who think things through.

"I don't normally follow social norms," Beutler said. "I make my own choices."

4 Ways to Get Someone's Attention

- Stand **backwards** in an elevator
- Sit at your **teacher's desk**
- **Talk to yourself** or start humming
- Dye your hair an **odd color**

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

School's a snooze for student sleepers

Teachers resort to creative methods to wake their nodding pupils

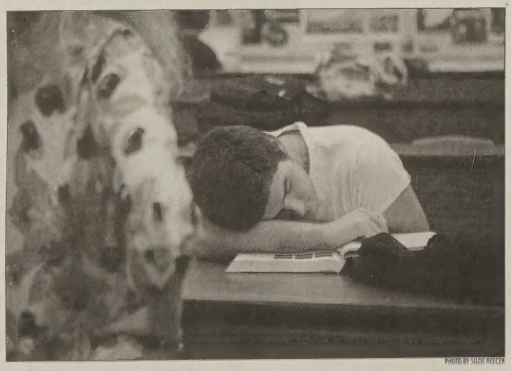


PHOTO BY TAZIE REECER

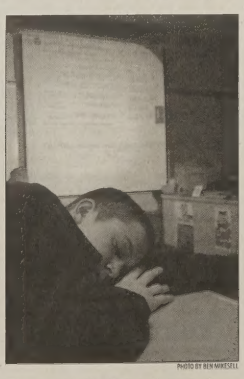


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Left: Joey DeRosa (12) catches some shut eye while substitute teacher "Coach" Eckler stares on in disapproval. Right: Aaron Keebler (10) is left behind as the bell rings and students vacate math teacher Dave Panning's Algebra II: Honors class. Other teachers take an aggressive approach and ridicule the sleepers.

By Lexi Yanez
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Despite numerous teachers' efforts to the contrary, at least one student sleeps in class each and every day. Students may doze off due to late night cramming or too many extracurricular activities, but the fact remains that teachers certainly don't have to and certainly won't take it lying down.

While teachers may engage in various methods to keep students awake, students have numerous reasons (though certainly not justifications) to fall asleep.

"I stay up late doing homework and I am so tired that I need to sleep in class. One time while I was in study hall, I was napping and someone came and slammed books down on the table. That was certainly a rude awakening," said Laurel Boyd (12).

Teachers use a variety of methods to awaken somnolent students; whereas most teachers simply tap the dozing student in question on the shoulder or call their name, certain teachers have become a bit more innovative with time and experience.

"I shoot NERF darts at sleeping students, but never directly, and it has to be the right projectory. It's a non-lethal form of waking someone up, and this being physics class, it relates to the subject," Matt Elder, physics teacher, said.

However, while some take bold approaches, others feel as though tried and true methods have not endured the test of time simply for naught.

"It usually just takes time to wake students up with a different method, so I just tell them to sit up," Jan Venderly, English teacher, said.

Some feel that there should not be any disciplinary repercussions for falling asleep in class, as students' bodies are wired to go to bed late and wake up late, not go to bed late and get up early.

"Consequences should not be at an administrative level, but at the teacher's discretion," said Toiyonna Arias, Spanish teacher.

While consequences may well be in the teacher's power, the question remains: Is sleeping in class truly something befitting a punishment?

"There should only be disciplinary action if it is repeated. I'll call the parents of the student to see why the student is sleeping in class before I write the student up," Jon Baker, world history teacher, said.

"Disciplinary repercussions should be at the teacher's discretion. Students miss enough when they sleep in class; getting behind should be their punishment," Elder said.

While sleeping in class may seem like an entirely independent problem unique to this generation, teachers went through school just as today's students did, and they know all too well what it is like to roll out of bed at an ungodly hour. Getting up early remains a part of a teacher's everyday life, even if he or she isn't sitting at the same wooden desk anymore.

"I never fell asleep in school; if I felt like I was too tired, then I would just stay home and sleep in. Students should have a nap time in the middle of the school day to keep them refreshed," Venderly said.

Despite the fact that teachers may be sympathetic to the plight of students, their reaction may not reflect such sympathy.

"Sometimes students fall asleep and they end up sleeping through the period; if it is seventh period they end up missing the bus," Baker said. "I say we stick Sharpies up the students' noses to wake them up."

DAILY DOZE

Children (5-12 years)	10-11 hours
Teens (11-17 years)	8.5-9 hours
Adults (18 and older)	7-9 hours

SOURCE: WWW.SLEEPFOUNDATION.ORG

Writers compose stories, enter national contest

By Nicole Ivanovic
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

While many writers achieve their eminence in their post-high school years, the National Novel Writing Month competition provides young writers an opportunity for recognition with the aid of sponsors. National Novel Writing Month, also known as NaNoWriMo, is a month dedicated to writers of the world and aims to draw writers across the globe who are open to a challenge aimed at their extemporaneous skills.

"I found out about the competition through Mr. Hill and the writers club here, and I am excited to participate this year," Mary Boyne (11) said.

The goal of the month is to create a communal environment for writers while sparking their creativity and inspiring a new kind of style. While it is frequent for the casual writer to browse the website and comment on the various forums, the real exhilaration is found through the online competition. Wrimos (the common word for writers on the site) have the month of November to come up with a 50,000 word story based on quantity versus quality. Accomplishing the goal of a 50,000 word story is more than a transient feat for most, and the decision to start writing is more than an impromptu, passing fancy for writers.

"When I start out, I am a planner, and by doing this, when I write my novel it helps me to know where I have been, and where I want to go," Becky Katz (12), former participant, said.

There is no pre-planning allowed except for a basic outline or character list, creating fairness throughout the completion, and this on-the-spot writing technique creates anticipation for the arrival of the starting date. While writing a novel seems like an easy task, the numbers are formidable when broken down to a day-by-day view.

"Evenly split throughout the month, it is equivalent to writing 1,667 words a day, which is tough because writers have to sit down after a long day and just write words," Katz (12) said. "It definitely tests their abilities to focus and come up with a story in the amount of time given to them."

Because of the time involved in writing, the choice to take on such a demanding project may or may not seem reasonable.

"For a lot of young writers, writing has become a shared experience that helps bring them together as a group, and as writing can be lonesome and isolating sometimes, NNWM makes it feel like a party in comparison," Scott Hill, English teacher, said.

The competition has proved to fulfill the creative desires of participants who persevere through the superfluity of activities presented through high school life, even attracting alumni.

"Most people don't realize how much time it takes to write a novel, and most professional writers take months. I wish that I could participate this year, but applying to colleges is going to take up most of my free time this winter," Katz (12) said.

Writers who search for an outlet at Homestead are given opportunities through the various clubs offered, but in regard to the competition, lonely posters on the walls of various English classrooms limit the popularity of the NNWM contest. Surrounding schools approach NNWM differently, highlighting the month by offering extra credit for students that read novels during the month of November.

The next time a paper is typed on the computer, pay attention to the word count and give merit to the devoted writers who, in the month of November, will partake in a challenge to compete against the nefarious word count.

True happiness found in balance

Milan Kundera, throughout the course of his prolific career, has written numerous novels that, to me, seem matchless. His greatest success and most enchanting novel, The Unbearable Lightness of Being, epitomizes the element that makes his work so marvelously unrivaled: dreamy, thoughtfully philosophical undertones. Being is less a novel than it is a contemplative reflection upon concepts of kitsch and totalitarianism; it is an exceptional fusion of philosophy and human nature. Throughout the novel, a centralizing philosophy of lightness and weight is presented- should one be heavy or light?

A womanizing surgeon in the Soviet Prague of 1968, Tomas seems somewhat indecisive- while his promiscuity and perception of love and sex as two separate entities lend themselves to lightness, he gradually gains an iota of depth as authoritarian Soviet policy reduces him to a window-washer. The presence of his insecure and often-burdensome wife Tereza creates a heaviness that curbs his eroticism, but she also fosters a deep love, the lightness of which seems to outweigh the heaviness of exile and monogamy. Tomas lives a life of contradiction.

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

Self-described as weak in comparison to her husband, Tereza is an unfalteringly heavy character- while she and Tomas love one another dearly, the juxtaposition of their incompatible weight conspires to make them miserable, and she embodies a heaviness that he is unable to ignore. Her work in the line of political fire as a photojournalist brings a positive weight to her life, but her weakness and insecurity of being simply one of Tomas' many lovers constantly drag her down, so much so that she questions her heaviness.

Tomas' beloved expatriate mistress Sabina experiences life as the embodiment of extreme lightness, finding profound satisfaction in the act of betrayal - her life is no more than a series of betrayals. She declares outright war on kitsch and ugliness, but finds herself drawn to heaviness in the form of Franz, a naive professor so incapable of lightness that he ascribes dreamy meaning to ordinary events. Where Tomas gradually reforms in the face of Tereza's heaviness, Sabina rejects Franz, and consequently finds that her lightness is no longer satisfying. Franz himself dies a meaningless death in Bangkok, his epitaph of "a return after long wanderings" suggesting the tragedy of his heaviness and the futility of his life.

Kundera suggests a life beyond weight and beyond passing trivialities, but he also intimates that such a lightness of being is unbearable in its lack of meaningful significance. As Sabina serves as the only character to remain standing at the close of the novel, such a juxtaposition of lightness and weight once seemed futile to me- all characters misjudge weight so drastically that it leads to grave consequences, and as written by Jonathan Safran Foer, they thought themselves out of happiness one thousand times, but never once into it.

Truly great books should be savored and revisited. Multiple re-readings have shown me that Tomas and Tereza learn to tame their imperfect relationship through compromise, and in that balance of lightness and weight comes the true meaning of happiness.

STEPPING TO THEIR OWN BEAT

Receiving little recognition from student body, Step Club starts new season

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

Music and dance have long been lauded as salves to the soul and worldwide factors of harmonious unity, but while the cultural synthesis of "step" dancing has made shockwaves around the globe, Homestead's Step Club remains a rather mysterious organization in that it is rarely seen in public performance. Practicing in relative anonymity above the main gym after school on Mondays and Tuesdays, Step Club is ideally poised to come to light with its highly percussive rhythm and heavily earth-centric movements.

"Stepping is a multi-cultural art form popular in high schools with more diversity than Homestead and nation-wide colleges," Shirley Phifer-Smith, Summit Middle School social studies teacher and leader of Step Club, said. "The dance can also be used as cheer because of its percussive movements with the body. It's very rhythmic, and is of African origin in terms of movement and sound. It's quite popular on college campuses in fraternities and sororities because it builds unity and team spirit."

While stepping is an artistic fusion of numerous dances and musical rhythms, its roots in fast-paced movement beg an important question- does it require the athleticism and physical endurance that dance so often demands?

"When you put effort into it and make sure to do it the right way, it can be kind of difficult, but after awhile you'll get used to it," Jasmine Jennings (10), a previous member of Step Club, said. "The soreness gradually fades and it won't be as physically demanding as it was in the beginning so long as you give it time."

> "When you put effort into it and make sure to do it the right way, it can be kind of difficult, but after a while you'll get used to it."
>
> **JASMINE JENNINGS (10)**
> *Former Member*

While Step Club may be something of a concealed organization at Homestead, its sphere of influence is surprisingly vast. Reputed to draw elements of African and Caribbean tribal dance, it may sometimes include frighteningly dangerous stunts as part of enthralling segments of its routines and has been featured in various films and television shows including Stomp the Yard and The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Perhaps more recognizably, America's Best Dance Crew has featured dance ensembles that specialize in stepping, including victors JabbaWockeeZ and season three's Striker All-Stars, who took fourth place. Moreover, the influence and recognition of step are not limited to pop culture; the Bronx's PLAYERS Club Steppers have performed at the White House numerous times, and Howard University's Beta chapter of Alphi Phi Alpha stepped at the inauguration of former President Bill Clinton.

Despite its international popularity, Step Club remains decisively unknown at Homestead, and its list of performances is disparagingly short.

"There's a small number of people involved, and we didn't perform anywhere other than the variety show [last year]," Jennings said.

With its craft finely honed and basketball season fast approaching, Step Club may now have more of a performance outlet than what has previously been provided.

"Stepping needs to be performed at popular venues like sports games," Phifer-Smith said. "Have the steppers come out in addition to the cheerleaders. It's a rally call, a call for school spirit, and the more students can perform, the better. Hopefully in a few months, when basketball season comes, we'll be able to get out there and show what we've got. Right now, we're building unity and practicing before we can expose Homestead to it. Step draws elements of all kinds of dances and is fun to watch. It's about creating school spirit through not just athletics, but the performing arts."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK SAYLER

Students strive for five o'clock shadow

No-Shave November begins, students proudly don facial hair

CARTOONS BY CAM KAMINSKI

BY ELANA MERRITT
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Thanksgiving, Veteran's Day, and the end of Daylight Savings Time mark the close of November for many people, but most high school students overlook a certain quirky tradition: No Shave November. NSN is a month for boys and men alike to embrace their masculinity by neglecting their razors for an entire 30 days in an attempt to grow manly facial hair. The rules are simple: anyone participating must shave a final time right before midnight on October 31st, or Halloween, and may not shave the rest of the month.

Although many students have never even heard of No Shave November, it has become something of a underground cult classic for various Homestead organizations. No Shave November's popularity can be attributed to, among other things, its ability to foster camaraderie.

"There tends to be friendly competition over who can grow their facial hair the fastest. It gives me a reason to be lazy as well. I don't have to deal with shaving for a whole month," Sahand Emamian (10), a planned participant, said. Whereas some elect to participate in order to challenge their friends to determine who can produce the best facial hair, the competition also unites men worldwide while allowing them to skip their monotonous routine.

> "I find facial hair attractive to an extent, but I'm not really into the ZZ-Top beards."
>
> **HEIDI KARNS (10)**
> *No-Shave November Supporter*

Among the female population at Homestead, the pervasively common opinion is that facial hair is wildly unattractive. Countless girls have concluded that the magnetism of the facial hair is dependent on its length and the student who is sporting the facial hair.

"I find facial hair attractive to an extent, but I'm not really into the ZZ-Top beards. Beards that are too long are gross, but I don't mind a little hair. I don't think No Shave November is juvenile either, I actually find it kind of funny," Heidi Karns (10) said.

However, while women may have formed a tried-and-true opinion of excessive facial hair, men may very well be prone to disagreement.

"It depends on how the facial hair looks. If it's unkempt, it looks unattractive, but in general, it doesn't. It also gives a dignified aura about a person, and people say it makes me look smart when I wear my glasses," Emamian said.

Although men may be enthused about the challenge awaiting them, many are excluded from participation due to unhappy girlfriends who veto their neglect of the razor.

Among other organizations, the trumpet section of the Spartan Alliance Band and the boys' swim team are partaking in something similar to No Shave November in order to cultivate team spirit, but their festivities occur during a different time of the year. The trumpets decided not to shave until state competition, which occurs on October 31st.

"Someone just told everyone to not shave until state, so we are," Nihar Chhatiawala (10), trumpet player, said. Swim team members will carry the torch of the tradition not to shave until their big competition in order to create cohesion.

No Shave November can be considered something of a curious phenomenon. Despite widespread dislike from the female population of the school, team spirit and masculine camaraderie continue to trump feminine disdain.

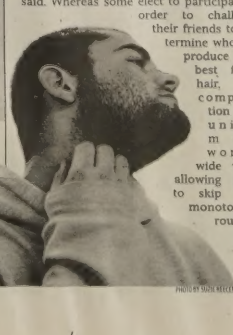


PHOTO BY SHIZA MEECER

Anthony Mullen (12) shows off his fully grown facial hair.

AN EGG UP ON THE COMPETITION

PHOTO BY JOE MANGUES

The annual Egg 'N Beg fundraiser took place again last Monday. The goal of the fundraiser is to raise money by having students go door to door asking for donations. In order to get the donations, the donor is allowed to throw anything found in their refrigerator at the students. Covered in eggs, chocolate syrup and shown above: Kim Bautz (10), Abby Crowly (10), Andy Harkness (10), Briana Porter (10), Dan Hinen (10) and his team were able to raise over $100 for Campus Life in only 30 minutes.

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SPORTS

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PHOTO BY SUSIE BEECHER

The soccer team celebrated as they won 1-0 after last weeks game against Warsaw.. The team won the game before in penalty kicks against Northridge Monday, and after Tuesday, they guaranteed themselves a place in the state finals for the second year in a row. The only goal scored was by center midfielder, Frankie Zirille (10). Last Saturday, they drove down I-69 South to Kuntz Field, hoping to get redemption for last year's early tournament exit.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Athletes train mind, body in preseason

By Andrew Weiss
Writer-staff@thespartana.net

Training for a sport is no longer limited to only seasonal practices, games and tournaments; dedication to one's sport is a year round requirement for numerous high school athletes. Athletes at Homestead are no different; offseason workouts–whether it is with the team or just at the local YMCA–are important when a sport is not in season.

Currently, prospective players for the basketball team are using a local training program to ready themselves for the upcoming season. Over the course of a month and a half, players have been attending Athletes With a Purpose workouts twice a week.

Athletes With a Purpose, more commonly known as AWP, claims to help athletes develop both the body and mind. The program centers its training philosophy on education and total body strength.

AWP has worked with athletes including current Dallas Cowboy Anthony Spencer, who grew up in Fort Wayne and played for Purdue as a defensive end. He swears by the programs that the sports performance center set up for him as a high school athlete at Bishop Luers.

> "AWP provides the highest quality of sports performance training in the Fort Wayne area."
>
> **ANTHONY SPENCER**
> *Dallas Cowboys Defensive Lineman*

"AWP provides the highest quality of sports performance training in the Fort Wayne area. I recommend any athlete serous about playing at the next level to train with AWP," Spencer said.

Because every sport requires strength in different areas, Athletes with a Purpose sets up workout programs based around certain sports. For instance, the basketball workouts that the team has been attending are focused on quickness, strength and endurance.

"I've worked out with Athletes with a Purpose in the past with a program based around basketball, and they really push you," Andy Phillippe (12), basketball player, said. "We've really improved our endurance and basketball skills over the course of doing AWP."

While the program is specifically centered on strengthening players' all-around game for this winter, the workouts have created team chemistry as well. AWP has also helped new players such as Tim Dunn (12), who went to Northrop last year, get acquainted with new teammates.

"Throughout these workouts, we work in groups and rely on each other to finish," Josh Raines (12) said. "A lot of this stuff is challenging, and knowing that your teammates are going through the same thing with you creates a connection that you can't get working out by yourself."

As well as working with AWP twice a week, the team has not shied away from open gym workouts, which are held once a week. Open gyms consist of all basketball players at Homestead playing pickup games to get back into basketball shape for the winter.

"With the addition of the AWP workouts, we can be a stronger team than last year and have more endurance down the stretch," Joe Olivieri (11) said. "Hopefully, this can translate into more wins and we can go deeper in the postseason than last year, as well."

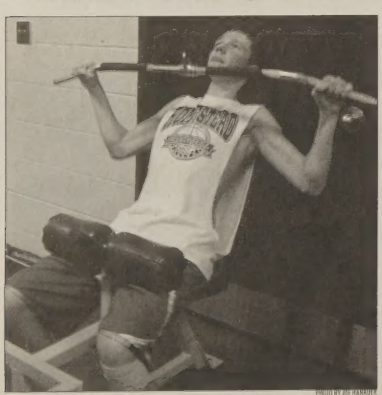


PHOTO BY JAE WARNER

Kaleb Barkes (9) does lateral pull downs at an AWP workout last week.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

The heartbreak kids

Penalty kicks have untimely finish for girls soccer season

By Max Isroff
Business-business@thespartana.net

As fall sports teams' seasons come to an end, the varsity boys' and girls' soccer teams have made pushes deep into the postseason. Both teams won their sectionals, but while the girls' team's season ended at regionals, the boys' team has moved on to state. With a win on Monday versus Northridge for the regional championship and a win on Tuesday over Warsaw for the semi-state title, the boy's team advanced to the state competition.

"We are really starting to come together on offense and defense," Kegan Harkenrider (12) said. "The second half of the regular season, sectionals and regionals have really given us a chance to get some momentum going. Hopefully, we can ride that momentum to a state championship."

The boys will rely on senior leaders Harkenrider, Ben Hazen (12), Justin Hanford (12), Tom Ault (12), Connor McMahon (12), Zach Mettler (12), Joe Gallmeyer (12), David Wirtner (12) and Cord Magaña (12) to take the title. The state championship has always been a goal of the team, one that they set at the beginning of the season.

"We set the goal to win the state championship, but at the same time we can't allow ourselves to look too far ahead. We have to focus [only] on the next game. We have done a good job of that so far this season; we can't allow ourselves to slip now," Hazen said.

With their wins on Monday and Tuesday, the boys team is advancing to the state championship tournament which is held this weekend. Winning the two semi state games were not easy though, the team was with out defensive players Caleb Castillo (11) and Patrick Slee (11) for both games and senior leader Kegan Harkenrider for the game Tuesday. Harkenrider was unable to play after he received his fifth yellow card of the season in the game Monday. IHSAA rules state that if a player receives five cards, he or she must sit out for the following game. The team won Tuesday's game against Warsaw, with a final score of 1-0. The game's only goal came from midfielder Frankie Zirrille (10). The Spartans were able to hold the lead for the rest of the game.

> "We set the goal to win the state championship. We have done a good job of that so far this season, we can't allow ourselves to slip now."
>
> **BEN HAZEN (12)**
> *Soccer Player*

Mondays game against Northridge came down to penalty kicks after regulation and overtime could not decide a winner. After going down early to Northridge, the team fought back and scored a goal with time running down in the second half. After the goal, the team, now with the momentum, stepped up the defensive effort and made multiple offensive pushes before the game went to penalty kicks.

Meanwhile, on the girls' side, their season came to a disappointing end against Carroll, where they lost 3-2 on penalty kicks.

"Of course we were disappointed," Nicole Musi (12) said. "But at the same time, we were proud of what we had accomplished this year."

The girls' team's final record was 11-7-2. Some members of the team are already looking forward to next year, while seniors believe the team's outlook is impressive.

"I think the team will continue to grow and learn and hopefully go deeper into the postseason every year. They definitely have the potential to do well," Musi said.

CROSS COUNTRY SEASON CHECKPOINT

As October comes to a close this week, the Cross Country team's season will end along with it. After a great season, propelled by runners from each grade level, the team finished tenth overall at semi-state last weekend. The race was ran at the Plex, a common race track for runners in Fort Wayne.

"I've raced at the Plex twice this season, its a mentally tough course that is challenging each time I run it," Mullins said.

They finished first overall in the NHC Conference this season, after finishing third last year. At the Marion Invitational, each runner on the team beat their personal best. They finished second overall at the Marion Regional, with Max Silcox (9) finishing fourteenth overall.

"Four out of our five runners ran their personal best, helping the teams overall finish. We all picked up our pace on the last mile, to pass other key runners to eventually get second place. I feel like it was definitely my best race of the season mentally, and physically," Silcox said.

After a week of avoiding sickness, Mullins was able to finish 8th overall, the best finish by a Homestead Spartan in a semi-state race in school history. This guaranteed him a spot in the state championship race. The race was ran at the LaVern-Gibson course, in Terre Haute, Indiana. Other members of the team have been training with Mullins all this week, to help prepare him for the race of his life.

"I'm very excited since it's my first time going to state, and it's very overwhelming at the same time. I feel a lot of pressure, but feel confident in my abilities going into the race. I want to represent Homestead well, and leave it all on the course."

After a strong season by the entire team, Mullins will use the momentum given to him by his teammates, in the most competitive race of his life, and the final race of the season.

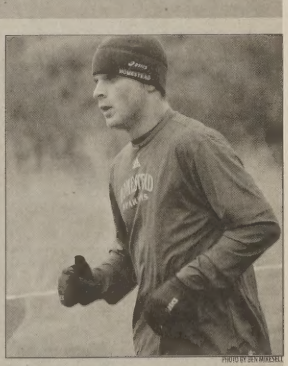
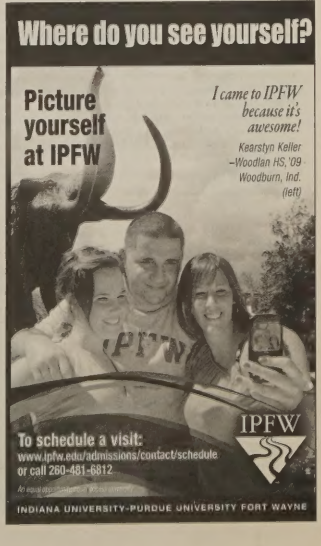


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Jordan Gearhart (11) runs at the semi-state meet. The team placed first in the NHC Conference this season

POP CULTURE MATRIX	BEFORE EACH GAME, I...	THE LAST PLACE I SAW RICK SMITH WAS...	THE BEST FLAVOR OF GATORADE IS...	THE CHEESE IN THE CAFETERIA IS...
LAUREN PURLEE (10) Cross Country	"Pray the FCA creed three times."	"I couldn't tell you."	"Nothing compares to frozen Powerade Green Squall."	"I still haven't tried it."
BEN HAZEN (12) Soccer	"Always warm up the exact same way."	"I saw him at WalMart."	"LEMON LIME"	"Way too hard, and looks green."
TERESA BUSSE (11) Soccer	"Put my IPod in and get ready for the game."	"At a stoplight, he waved at me."	"Purple, hands down."	"It has its good days and bad days. You have to be lucky."
KODI MULLINS (11) Cross Country	"Pray and stretch."	"While I was driving."	"Probably Orange Gatorade Rain."	"Yellow?"
CODY COX (11) Football	"Pray, and put on my eye black."	"Last year, I don't remember where though."	"Light blue."	"The cheese gave my hand second degree burns last year."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Junior competes on national level in unique sport

Paintball World Cup attracts Foreman, widespread Midwest team to Florida for tournament

As the football, soccer and volleyball teams played out their seasons in the limelight, Zach Foreman (11) and his teammates, unbeknownst to most, participated in their own unique sport on a national level. Zach's team participated in the Paintball World Cup in Polk City, Florida, from Oct. 7-11 and told The Spartana about his experience.

The Spartana: How did you get into the sport of paintball, and what is it like?

Foreman: I first got into paintball when I was in sixth grade. My brother, his friends and I decided to go to our local field and play. I instantly fell in love with the sport; I then started to play as much as I could. The years went on and I tried to play whenever I had money and time. Paintball is played in two different styles. One style is played in the woods and is usually called "woods ball;" you dress up in camo and play a capture the flag or elimination game. The other way of playing is on a flat 120 by 150 foot-long field with inflatable bunkers, and is called "XBall," which is what our team plays. An "XBall" team consists of five people on a team playing to eliminate the other team in a certain amount of time.

The Spartana: How did you organize a team, and who is on it?

Foreman: I began playing on an official team about a year ago. Another local player recommended me to the coach I now play for. There are about ten guys on our team. Most of them live in Indiana; some live three hours away, some live six hours away. One teammate lives in Kentucky. The ages on our team vary from 15-21. Our team gets along with each other very well, which is needed on a paintball team.

> "Playing in the World Cup was unreal. All of the "best of the best" teams were there from every league, but when I stepped on the field, it was just like playing in Indiana."
>
> **ZACH FOREMAN (11)**
> *Plays Paintball*

The Spartana: What is your favorite aspect of playing paintball?

Foreman: My favorite aspect of the sport is the adrenaline rush you get while playing. The sport of paintball is very competitive and intense. The sport is very demanding on your body. Running and diving to try and dodge paintballs moving 300 feet per second is very hard on your body, but it is also very fun. Shooting the other team during a match is also fun.

The Spartana: Do you think paintballing should be a high school sport? Why?

Foreman: It would be very fun if paintball was a high school sport, but I also think it would never happen. I don't think there would be enough people in each school to make a full team. Money would also be a problem; paying for equipment and paintballs is very costly. However, colleges such as Purdue, Penn state, Ohio State and more do have paintball teams.

The Spartana: You and your team recently participated in the Paintball World Cup. Did you have to qualify for the competition? If so, what did you have to do to qualify?

Foreman: We played in the World Cup Championships that were held in Florida. We placed 13th out of around 100 teams. This bumped our ranking up, making our team ranked sixth in the nation for our league. There are seven different leagues: Division Five, Division Four, Division Three, Division Two, Division I, semi-pro and pro. This past season our team was ranked D4. Since our overall ranking was so high, our team was automatically bumped up to D3. There are four major tournaments placed in the north, south, east and west. Last season, our team competed in all of them. The tournaments were in Chicago in the north, North Carolina in the east, Florida in the south and Phoenix in the west. You play in all of those tournaments and the league takes all of your scores and adds them up, which determines your ranking in the league.

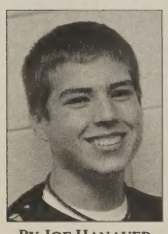
The Spartana: What was it like playing in the tournament? What was your favorite part?

Foreman: Playing in the World Cup was unreal. All of the "best of the best" teams were there from every league, but when I stepped on the field, it was just like playing in Indiana. When we weren't playing, we got to watch our favorite pro teams play, and we even got to meet some of them.

NHC districting rules irrelevant in postseason success

Whether our fall sports teams have already finished their season or are still competing in the postseason, it is inevitable that each team has accomplished something great during their season. It doesn't matter whether it was on or off of the field; Homestead athletics proved to the rest of the city that they are a forced to be reckoned with. As opposed to last year, not only a select few, but every team performed beyond expectations in the postseason. What makes the success of all of these teams even better is that the competition was tougher than ever.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

While most people say that the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) is much more competitive than any other conference, it is hard to compare both of these groups of teams without looking beneath the records themselves. The biggest difference between the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) and the SAC is the recruiting process that member high schools follow. As opposed to the SAC, in the NHC, a player is forced to go to a school because of the district they live in. However, in the SAC, an athlete sometimes has the "option" of choosing where they want to go because many SAC schools are private schools, and are therefore not bound to some districting rules.

While Homestead lacks the recruiting process that some other schools have, there are several examples which show that our teams can still compete in the area, as well as with some of the strongest teams in the state. The tennis team captured its 31st consecutive sectional title and went on to compete in the state championships. Defeating rival school Canterbury, they proved that while they lack a large number of seniors, they were still able to compete with the best of the best. The boys' soccer team made it to the state finals last year and continued their quest to return to Indianapolis after a win during penalty kicks on Monday against Northridge. After a 1-0 win last Tuesday against Warsaw, the Spartans guaranteed themselves a spot in the state championship for the second year in a row.

Playing each game with a target on their back, the football team dominated almost every game they played this year. They lost only once during the season, against conference rival Norwell. Playing in the mud is not something the team is used to, and for the first time ever, we now know that the Astroturf has a downside. While the Spartans have yet to play an SAC team, they have so far outscored their opponents 382-118. Snider has always proved to be a difficult game for the team, but with their offensive power and lockdown defense, an SAC game should be no different than last week's win.

Overall, it's becoming more than obvious that Homestead is gradually becoming the dominant sports power that it needs to be. With over 2,400 students, it's a no brainer why many Spartan teams win sectionals with ease. However, the end of October will also bring an end to many fall athletes' seasons. Most teams have been defeated at regionals or semi-state, but with the talent that the school has been given, it wouldn't be surprising to see a Homestead team fighting for a state championship. As the leaves change colors and the end of October comes closer and closer each day, every team knows that their seasons are nearing an end and that they must therefore make the most of them.

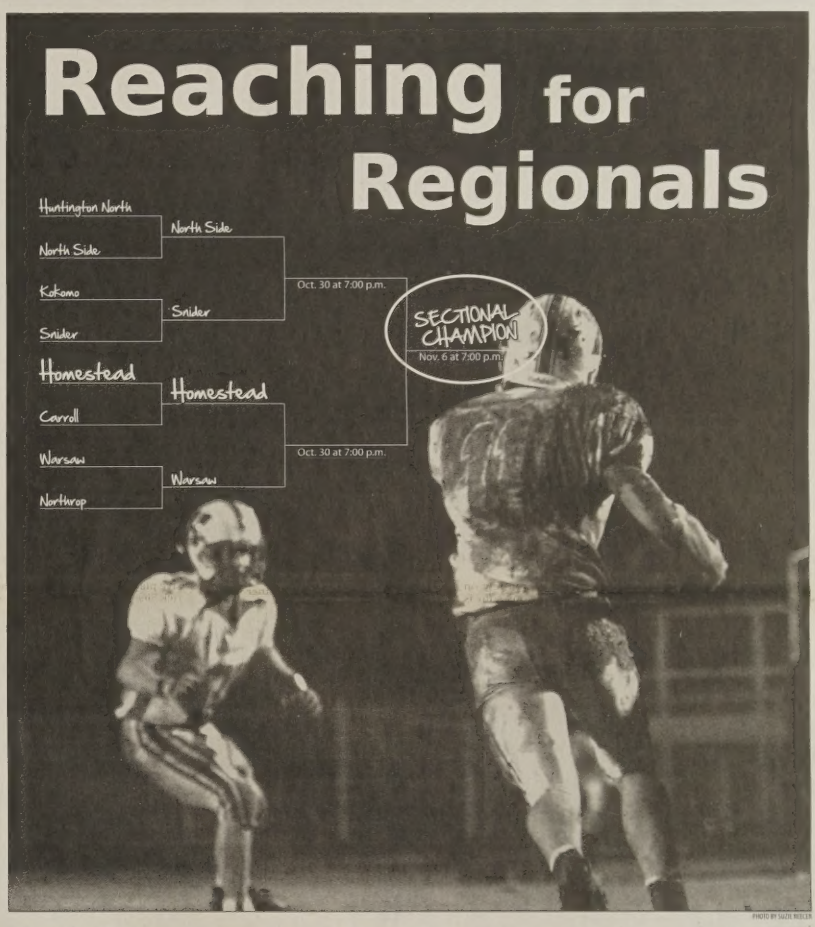


PHOTO BY SUZIE NEELEY

Football team stays focused on advancing away from sectionals

BY: CONNOR O'HARA
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The Spartan football team could not have asked for a better opening sectional draw. After winning against New Haven on October 16, with a dominating score of 43-6, they figured that this year, like all others, they would play Snider for their first game in sectionals. It's safe to say that they were surprised as anyone to realize that they wouldn't be playing Snider first this year in sectionals, but they'd be playing Carroll instead, a team they beat 41-10 in the beginning of October.

"We all feel good about our sectional drawing, I like that we have already played Carroll and we know how they play," Cody Appenzeller (11) said.

While most teams who were playing a team that they dominated during the regular season would coast into sectionals. The team took the game as seriously as they would any other game. "Carroll is a dangerous team. They have a lot of talent and good coaches. They are just struggling to fit everything together, but we can not over look them," Colin Harruff (12) said.

Even though this year the Spartans have drawn Carroll for their first round pick, it is not to say that the Spartans will not be seeing Snider further down the postseason road. "Depending on how the first and second rounds go this year we have the potential to play Snider in the sectional championship," Harruff said.

After last Friday's game it looks as though Harruff's remark is coming true. Homestead beat Carroll with an impressive 26-3 lead on the Chargers. Zach Terrell (10) and Conor Price (12) were definitively the pair to watch during the game. Terrell had 3 passes to Price for 3 TD's totaling 61 yards, but there were also some unfortunate problems on Friday's first round sectional game against Carroll. In the first and second quarter, Terrell and Price connected twice for 2 TD's, the PAT team failed to deliver keeping the score 12-3 at half, after Carroll kicked a field goal earlier in the game. With the second round of sectionals tonight against Warsaw, the Spartans know they have to take the intensity from the regular season into tonights game.

The goal of almost any high school team is to plow past sectionals and take home the regional title. The Spartans have set their eyes on this goal all season. "Everything we've done all year has gotten us ready for the second season and we just have to keep practicing hard and stay focused," Harruff said. It's very well known that the Homestead football team prepares just as hard for their regular season, as their second season, which consists of sectionals, regionals, and the road to the state championship.

Although the Spartans have to play one more sectional game before they can think about regionals, they hope to carry their intensity from the past weeks into tonight. Warsaw currently has a 6-4 record and won 21-0 last Friday against Fort Wayne Northrop. Homestead played Warsaw earlier in the beginning of their regular season and won 31-17. The Spartans certainly have their work cut out for them, and hopefully after taking down Warsaw, the Spartans can walk off the field with another win on the board and focus all of their attention on becoming regional champions. "The season has prepared us for regionals, all the team can do is practice hard and focus and let our performance take us how far we can go," Appenzeller said, and it seems certain that the Spartans will definitely be going far.

Quarterback Zach Terrell (10) looks to pass to a teammate up field during the game against Carroll on Oct. 23. The football team won the first sectional game 26-3.

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FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

As the economy is low and the driving age is rising, the school's buses are becoming more of an essential in daily lives. The Spartana has done its research and has found what life is like on the most populous buses, and how the students who have to wait longer for their licence are coping with the new transportation issues. Tips were also created to help those on the buses learn how to tolerate any problems that may arise from the trip or other students.

[FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET]

Mixed reviews on high school bus-riders, bus conversations

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
Executive Editor • dluttrell@thespartana.net

It's been almost two years since I have ridden the bus-- but I still almost missed it.

Walking through those dreaded double doors of Exit 32, my heart raced as I realized it was already 2:41 p.m. and could hear the buses' engines revving for departure. Dashing though the fondling crowd of young lovers giving their last-minute goodbyes, I searched for my long-lost Bus 6, looking like the new kid at a school I have attended for the past four years. The insecurities created by such a now foreign environment were similar to those of a member of the socially accredited class of 2009 at his or her first community college course, filled with unfamiliar faces and a subsequent foreshadowing of an unpromising weekend.

I decided to set out on this reuniting journey with the bus-riding world to talk to pre- and post-pubescent students alike about their thoughts on the recently increased minimum age needed to be eligible for a driver's license from 16 years and 30 days to 16 years and 180 days. With a new legal driving age, more high school students are expected to ride the bus further into the school year, creating a potential hassle between the combined teenage angst of the upperclassmen and the unsurpassed, biologically embedded immaturity of the fuzzy-chinned backpack-rollers.

"I've never really liked the high school kids on the bus," Alexis Harris, seventh grader at Woodside Middle School, said. "Most of them are stuck-up and think they are so much better than the middle school kids."

Other passengers, however, have learned to co-habitate with one another and thus enjoy the roundtrip 20 minutes they share together each day.

"I don't have a problem with the older kids," Denzel Gordon, eighth grader at Woodside, said. " Some of my best friends are in high school, so I'm actually glad they get to ride the bus with me."

While becoming one with the world of "Hey you, put your window back up," "Who threw that at me?" and "Don't worry guys, I'm getting my license this weekend" that I have missed ever so dearly for the past few years, I was able to reacquaint myself with all the stereotypes of the bus-riding community. This newfound revelation naturally led me to the seat next to 17-year-old Tori Boester (11), the oldest and most seasoned veteran on Bus 6. I realized while walking down the narrow aisle of young Fort Wayne suburbanites, all staring at me, the unfamiliar upperclassman donning what is probably an even more unfamiliar sweater vest, that the shoulder-shrugged Boester with her subsequent dilapidated facial expression would supply the most accurate depiction of the secret life of the bus-riding teenager.

"I have to sit here and listen to the incredibly annoying underclassmen day in and day out," Boester said. "I'm waiting for a break in the school year to get my license, and I really can't wait to stop riding the bus."

Intermingled intermediate and secondary school students are bound to create a hodgepodge of hazardous situations, including but not limited to willful disobedience, deliberate littering of recyclable goods, and, on arguable occasions, borderline illegal group fondling. After witnessing two out of three of the above minor offenses, I was destined to meet Jack Stanley, the lonesome seventh grader, strategically sitting on the infamous centrally located hump-seat to solidify his chances of retaining an isolated ride home.

"I prefer to sit by myself," Stanley said. "I don't care if more high schoolers start riding the bus, as long as none of them ever sit with me."

Some may also argue that high school students can be a negative influence on today's youngest generation, frequently ranting about things like their inexplicable fetish with Edward Cullen, the steadily increasing price of various hallucinogens as a result of fluctuating socioeconomic trends, and that one prepubescent singing sensation who has thus far done a better job of winning over the same girls' hearts on whom I have been working for the past four years. Whatever the case may be, the innocence of today's young children should not be subject to the unregulated influence of the high school population.

"The high schoolers on the bus are always talking about nasty stuff that I don't want to hear about," Gordon said. "Monday mornings are the worst."

However revolting or uncool riding the bus may be for students these days, the school transportation system is undoubtedly one of the single most important aspects of the educational community.

"I wouldn't mind having more high school students on the bus at all," Phyllis Prezbindowski, Shorewood bus driver, said. "I love all the kids I work with, and I wouldn't trade these working conditions for anything."

New driving age causes issues for increasing bus populations

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

The wheels on the bus may be turning a little more slowly from changes to state driving laws.

Beginning July 1, 2010, drivers will need to be 16 years and 180 days old to get their license, a change from the 16 years and 30 days now. In addition, drivers under the new legislation will have a 10 p.m. curfew and can only drive specific people for the first 180 days after they receive their license.

With fewer students driving to school, the transportation department will need to accommodate more students on the bus.

"We've built in a lot of flexibility," Ike Doll, Director of Transportation, said of the bus routes for Southwest Allen County Schools. Currently, the 50 routes that serve Homestead, Summit, and Woodside each have about 45 to 55 students and can accommodate a few more per bus.

The bus routes are designed with an actual student rider count, not how many students live along a certain path. This way, in the event of an emergency, no route is overcrowded with students.

At this time, juniors and seniors are not routinely scheduled to ride the bus. Parents must request service. Since 80% of upperclassmen do not ride the bus, the transportation department makes routes based on how many calls they receive.

Phyllis Prezbindowski, bus driver since 1991, said she has one senior and no juniors on her route.

"They've found other ways of getting to school," she said.

Even with the license changes, Doll does not anticipate regularly scheduling upperclassmen on the routes.

"We can spread the influx among buses," he said. The routes are determined in August and are able to be shifted during the year.

However, the state licensing changes will have the greatest impact on students.

"I was looking forward to driving myself and others," Alec Ritter (9) said. "Others would look up to me."

Despite a disappointed reaction from students, many say they feel the change is for the better.

"Young drivers need more experience," Prezbindowski said. "They shouldn't get their license until 17 or 18 when they're more mature."

Some even feel that raising the driving age won't solve the issue.

"The law won't make the change–the individuals will," Doll said. In addition to licensing laws, drivers under 18 may not use telecommunications devices while driving.

But for Ritter, the bus is still the bus.

"I'm involved in after-school activities," he said, "I'm going to have to have my parents or another ride take me."

In this case, the benefits of the changes to the driving age may have cast a shadow on some of the negatives.

"I don't think the lawmakers thought about the school corporations," Prezbindowski said. "They thought about everyone in general."

Through license changes, rising gas costs, and other emergencies, Doll knows the bus always will be a reliable option for students.

"Students are good kids," he said. "Do we have differences when we're crowded on the bus? Sure. But they're going to get on and get to school."

HHS DECLASSIFIED BUS SURVIVAL GUIDE

6 TIPS FOR BUS RIDING

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

When riding the bus to and from school becomes hard, here are some helpful tips to make the rides better and less stressful for you.

KNOW YOUR COMEBACKS.

If you can't stand to sit in silence and want to pick a fight, make sure that you know your comebacks so that when you do speak, it is sure to create a silence.

PHOTO FROM LIFEHACKER.COM

ALWAYS CARRY YOUR IPOD.

Another way to use the multipurpose device, whether you are jamming it up with your friends, or ignoring the annoying middle school kids on the bus, this is a standard to have.

FIND A FRIEND.

For those days when teachers decided to hold back the class, it is convenient to have a friend that will save a spot on the bus. This also eliminates the awkward silence found when sitting with a stranger.

PHOTO BY NICOLE IVANOVIC

WATCH OUT FOR AIRBORNE OBJECTS.

If you ride the bus where everyone practices their pitching skills, then this is a daily problem you run into. Just be smart and sit behind the kids that are known for this behavior.

ESTABLISH YOUR SENIORITY.

PHOTO BY NICOLE IVANOVIC

Fret no more, the most important is to establish your seat. Let it be known that the back seat is taken, and then no kid will dare to mess with the set standards.

BEFRIEND THE DRIVER.

Get to know your bus driver, for those convenient days when you are the one caught between the fight. It will give you a good chance to get out of trouble, and also for you to be in on the gossip from the administration and transportation department.

the SPARTANA

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INSIDE NOW

NEWS
The senior who snapped a digital photo of study hall teacher Connie Meredith for a Facebook fan group sets the record straight. 2A

LIFE
A native Hoosier and a Mexico-born student square off on the merit of America's most delicious pasttime — Thanksgiving. 4A

THE NEXT 65
Cinema Center in downtown Fort Wayne offers a diverse selection of independent films that are often ignored by students. 8A

OPINION
The continuing and unopposed presence of Campus Life at Homestead is a troubling point in the church-and-state debate. 3A

SPORTS
Sports Editor Joe Hanauer ranks the most promising winter athletic prospects, including players to watch and key match-ups. 6A

ONLINE
The Spartana's official website is under construction as its layout is rearranged. The site is expected to launch again in January.

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We The People team earns 13th state run

Indianapolis finals slated for Dec. 13, 14

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Homestead's We The People team triumphed at the district tournament on Thursday, Nov. 5, continuing the school's 13-year winning streak. The team will now advance to the state competition on Dec. 13 and 14, where the competition will last two days for the first time, and a total of 12 schools will compete. In the past years, Homestead's team has placed anywhere from third to 10th.

Looking back at their district competition, the team felt confident that success would be achieved.

"We're used to winning districts, but it still takes some work to get there," We The People coach Keith Potter said. "The competition was a little tougher this year, and some schools are putting more time and effort into it; it gives us a good challenge."

Students feel as though the work they put into preparation helped them rise to the challenge of district competition.

"Though we've only been preparing strictly for the competition material for a couple of weeks with our competition groups, Mr. Potter gave us time in class to work every day, and we presented our papers on three separate occasions in front of judges for practice," Kate Colcord (11) said. "My group met outside of school as well."

5
Number of finalist schools chosen by the judging panel after two rounds of state contest.

This dedication to preparation helped the team prevail at districts.

"We had been getting ready

SEE 'WE THE PEOPLE,' PAGE 2A

We The People coach and government teacher Keith Potter observes as his students are asked questions regarding the U.S. Constitution by a panel of judges that evaluates each team's understanding of and proficiency in the sets of questions posed.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

[NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY INDUCTION 2009]

HONORS ON A ROLL

Approximately 2 in 10 juniors are now members of National Honors Society and have grade point averages exceeding 10.0. This figure equates to a letter grade of A-, which is 92 percent on the grading scale.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

NHS inducts record-breaking class

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Character. Scholarship. Leadership. Service. These words were meant to impact both new and returning members of National Honor Society (NHS), whose annual induction ceremony was held on Wednesday night in the auditorium. Present at the ceremony were the 99 juniors and four seniors who were inducted into NHS as well as the 82 returning senior members.

NHS membership is possible by invitation only. Students are invited into the society if they maintain a 10.0 GPA, which is an A- average, and if they are recommended and approved by teachers.

Carrying out traditions of past induction ceremonies, Wednesday's ceremony consisted of each new inductee and each returning member walking across the stage to receive a membership certificate and a key, which represents both the key values of NHS and the key traits to a successful life. The ceremony culminated in a candle-lighting ceremony in which each of the new members held a candle and recited an oath of allegiance to the society.

While some onlookers may have regarded the ceremony's components as more like an initiation into a cult rather than

SEE 'INDUCTION,' PAGE 2A

Left: National Honors Society faculty adviser and English teacher Scott Hill addresses attendees at the ceremony prior to inducting students.

'M.A.S.H' roles elicit belly laughs

Three-night run in mid-November brings war comedy to auditorium

By Stephanie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Last Thursday, Nov. 12, the stage curtains opened to the hit fall play M.A.S.H. and continued its three-night run on Nov. 13 and 14 to laughter, amusement, and raving reviews. Cast and crew members dedicated their time and energy to make the play enjoyable and entertaining for the audience. Tickets were $5 for students and children under 12 and $7 for adult, and were available during lunch or at the door on the nights of the show.

M.A.S.H takes place in a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in South Korea during the Korean War. It is about the lives of the characters and doctors who work at the 4077 M.A.S.H. unit hospital and how they create a close companionship and society throughout the war. Despite the war, these characters make the best of life and create a positive setting. Interesting and eccentric people come and go during the play and helped to generate many laughs amongst the audience last weekend.

For two months, 30 cast members have put forth a great deal of time and commitment to make sure the play runs smoothly. They practiced Monday through Thursdays from 2:35 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During dress rehearsal week, practice times were even longer. For the most part, rehearsals ran smoothly with a couple of bumps typical of the theater. For most cast members, practices were enjoyable and made them confident about the show.

SEE 'FALL PLAY,' PAGE 2A

"I love watching a diverse group of individuals become a cohesive cast. I love watching the parts of a production come together to form one fluid, amazing show."

VICTORIA MALOOLEY
Play Director

LEADING 'M.A.S.H.' DRAMATISTS

Hawkeye
Carson Royer (12)

Duke
Ryan Pranger (11)

Margaret Houlihan
Sarah Jane Sheley (12)

Frank Burns
Sahand Emamian (11)

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

ON THE DOTTED LINE

State road delays irk teens driving

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Construction on Indiana State Road 14, also known as Illinois Road, is becoming less of an inconvenience and more of a part of daily routine. This construction, conducted by Brooks Construction, will widen the previous two-lane road to a four-lane road with a bike path. The construction, which is estimated to cost a projected amount of $14 million, began in April 2008 and has been underway since then.

14
million dollars is the estimated cost of the traffic project.

Currently, there have been no time delays and construction is progressing according to schedule. However, unpredictable weather may change the rate at which construction is completed. The road is expected to be completed around August or September of 2010.

The changes in the road aim to aid the traffic flow from I-69 to Scott Road.

SEE 'STATE ROAD 14,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Sohail Emamian (12) talks with study hall supervisor Connie Meredith after school this week. Earlier in the month, the senior snapped a photograph of Meredith while she was drinking from a bottle of water. He then posted the picture on a Facebook fan group that was currently calling for submissions of teacher photographs. Once the administration caught wind of his contribution, he said they reprimanded him with a one-day in-school suspension for violating district rules.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Student recalls aftermath of photographing Meredith

Emamian believes punishment was too harsh

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Rodney Bradford did what most high school students do everyday on October 17 – he updated his Facebook status. What was more out-of-the-ordinary, however, was that updating his status to ask where his pancakes were would save him a trip to jail. Bradford, a suspect for a burglary case, used his Facebook update as a successful alibi and was cleared of all charges.

While Facebook helped the 19-year-old remain free from conviction, Facebook has now become the grounds for discipline cases that students do not foresee. Recently, Sohail Emamian (12) claimed to have received a one-day in-school suspension for posting a picture on Facebook from his personal computer. Emamian posted a picture of study hall supervisor Connie Meredith, taken from his seat in the cafeteria as she drank from a water bottle.

Emamian was prompted to take the picture after the Facebook group created by Brandon Recker (11) requested that students take pictures of Meredith for Recker's "Connie Meredith Fan Club" group.

SEE 'FACEBOOK,' PAGE 2A

"He [Kintz] told me that it was a violation of the rules and that I could get expelled if Connie was offended by the picture."

SOHAIL EMAMIAN (12)
Photographed Study Hall Supervisor

BACK TO THE BOOK

Emamian said Kintz cited pages 15 and 20 of the student handbook when deciding his punishment. Those pages include the following excerpt:

"Examples of unacceptable use are: [...] 5. Transmitting any content that is offensive, harassing, or fraudulent."

BRIEFS

ONGOING COLLEGE VISITS
Both Yale College and Albion College will be sending admissions representatives to Homestead on Tuesday, Nov. 24. In order to attend one of these interactive sessions, the interested student must receive a pass from Students Services at least one day in advance of the visit.

GYMNASTICS TRYOUTS
The first round for tryouts for Homestead's winter gymnastics team will be held today after school in the NGAP gym at 5:30 p.m.

CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOPS
Juniors and seniors interested in a career in the construction industry are invited to attend a series of workshops beginning in 2010. Prospective attendees must submit an application before Thanksgiving. This application be be obtained from Cindy Fitt in Student Services.

VOLLEYBALL WRAP-UP
All high school girls who participated in Homestead's fall volleyball season must meet with a staff member depending on which team for which they played. Freshmen volleyball players must meet with Mrs. Boneff in the Ninth Grade Academy front offices. Junior varsity volleyball players must meet with Mr. Lake in the athletic office.

CORRECTION
The Spartana incorrectly identified the location of junior Aaron Keebler's midday snooze. The classroom depicted in the photograph was not that of math teacher Dave Panning. The Spartana regrets this error.

▸▸WE THE PEOPLE CONTINUED FROM 1A

since the first day of school and I think our performance reflects this," Clayton Knappenberger (11) said. "There's always more you can do to be prepared, but in this case we were as ready as can be reasonably expected."

Although the victory of the district tournament was anticipated before the competition, students have already started to prepare for the state competition. Each group, or unit, has three new question topics to address, which means extensive research and comprehensive practice.

"My group and I have to start preparing our new speeches for the new questions," Joanna Nguyen (11) said. "We will research more information and court cases that deal with these topics covered in the new questions, and we will practice our speeches until we have them practically memorized. Once again to get this all done we are doing a lot of out of school work: meeting before and after school and e-mailing many documents back and forth."

While the preparation is lengthy, the team looks forward to competing at a higher level. The state event will include two rounds, after which judges will select five top schools. These finalists will participate in a championship round to determine which school will advance to nationals.

"We swept the tables and won district, and now we get to show what we know at the state level," Keelan Rushing (11), said.

The anticipation for the state competition is apparent, however the students plan to thoroughly prepare and perform to their best ability. With this plan, the team hopes that it can continue on, and eventually make it all the way.

"Our goal is to make the final five and once we get there, hope we can win it all. They're capable, but it depends on how much preparation they do both in and out of class." Potter said.

▸▸STATE ROAD 14 CONTINUED FROM 1A

Because traffic was becoming increasingly congested, the need for a four-lane road instead of a two-lane road became apparent. Construction efforts currently focus on Hadley Road.

Although there have been no schedule complications, there have been problems with the area's landscape. The land between Scott Road and Hadley Road was, at one time, a pond, and lowering the elevation of the road has created problems with drainage during heavy rains. The construction crew is working to drain the 60-to-80 feet of muck that remains. After the area is cleared, construction is expected to begin again.

Minor construction projects along Illinois Road include new gutters, sewers, sidewalks, and bike trails.

All drivers in the Fort Wayne area are affected by the construction. Illinois Road is often used by bus drivers, student drivers, and teachers, and thus the construction affects all members of the Homestead High School body as well as the neighborhoods in the SACS school district located on Illinois Road.

The changes that affect drivers the most are the changes in speed limit and available lanes. The speed limit on Illinois Road has been reduced to 35 miles per hour, and in some areas drivers are limited to using only one available lane.

The increase in traffic is intensified during busy times of day, such as rush hour and after school.

Despite the changes caused by construction, there have been only minimal changes to bus routes. According to Ike Doll, director of transportation for Southwest Allen County Schools, the road construction has never interfered with the district's transportation.

"When there's a change, as long as we know a day ahead, we can change the roads and routes," Doll said. "There are always alternative roads and avenues."

Student drivers have become adjusted to the change. The construction does not greatly alter their driving routes but does tend to slow their travel. Kelly Miller (12) said that though construction is troublesome when she drives along Illinois Road, it does not affect her driving much.

"When I drive down Illinois, it's annoying," Miller said. "Construction really slows me down."

Teachers express similar feelings. English teacher Joe Wolter has noticed that the road construction slows traffic, particularly depending on the time of day.

"If I drive early in the morning, there's not much change," said Wolter. "Later in the day, though, it makes driving slower."

The construction's goal is future convenience. Doll describes it as a necessity to a growing community.

"We should adjust," Doll said. "We should change."

▸▸FALL PLAY CONTINUED FROM 1A

"A few missed entrances and lines here and there, but other than that, it's fine," Ty Thomas (10) said before opening night. "I feel pretty good about [the show]. I'm good with my lines, and short on only one entrance. For the first time in my acting experience, I'm not nervous."

M.A.S.H. is based on a television series and movie from the 1970s. The series was a huge hit during the 1970s and remains a memorable show with millions of viewers. Because the audience was already somewhat familiar with the material, the play was more unique than other Homestead theatre productions.

"This play is different from all the others at Homestead because it is the first one I've been in (or seen) that is recognizable and has recognizable characters because it's based on a movie and a show that ran for over a decade," Carson Royer (12) said. "My favorite part is being able to play the different characters that I do."

Cast members worked hard to make this show a performance that no one would forget and were thrilled to have the auditorium filled with students, faculty, and parents. Not only is this play memorable to audiences who have seen the show M.A.S.H., but it also appeals to the younger generation. The cast members' hard work was not in vain, and the play went off without a hitch.

"I hope the audience will have a ball and I hope that, for those who did watch the TV show, it will bring back fond memories," director Victoria Malooley said. "I love watching a diverse group of individuals become a cohesive cast. I love watching all the parts of a production come together to form one fluid, amazing show."

ALL PLAY AND NO WORK

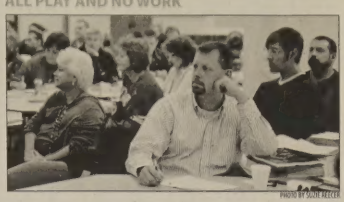

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

During a speaker's presentation at the teacher in-service day held two weeks ago, educators such as freshmen English instructor Joe Wolter took notes and listened closely to her words of advice while others took the time to make creations with pipe cleaners. To Wolter's right is teachers Scott Hill and Jeff Livensparger.

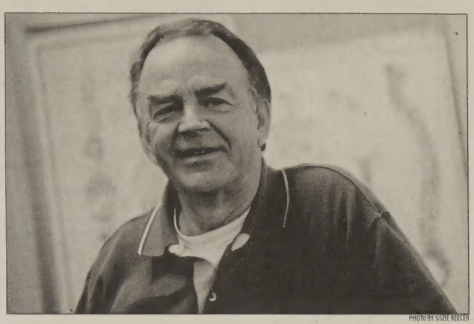

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Retiring health teacher punches cancer's clock

Shenfeld overcomes prostate cancer, stars in Lutheran Hospital television commercial

BY DAN VANDEVEER
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

The word "cancer," especially when uttered from a doctor's mouth, is never a good thing. Whether it's you or someone you are close to, a cancer diagnosis delivers a grim prognosis. However, when Dick Shenfeld, health teacher, received the news that he had prostate cancer, he didn't let it dampen his spirits.

"Initially, [it was tough] finding out that I had cancer," Shenfeld said. "When you hear that 'c' word, it kind of sets you back. I've been an athlete all my life, so I just looked at it as another race. [I asked] what are my goals, and what do I need to do to get to where I need to get, and what are my options. I've always been a positive person, and so I figured if I do the right things it should turn out alright.

"My outlook didn't change a lot. I've always been a goal-oriented, positive person."

DICK SHENFELD
Health Teacher and Running Coach

With 35 years of teaching experience, Shenfeld is one of the veteran teachers at Homestead. His students respect him for both his excellent teaching ability and his laid-back personality.

"Shenfeld was an awesome teacher," Solomon Lin (11) said. "He was really laid back, but was also great at teaching us."

Members of both the track and field team and the cross country team also loved Shenfeld as a coach.

"Coach Shenfeld was a great coach who made cross country enjoyable," Brady Gerber (11) said. "He cared about the whole team and was very easy to approach. He knew what he was doing as a coach, and was very encouraging."

Because Shenfeld's dad had prostate cancer and the cancer is potentially hederitary, Shenfeld has received annual tests to check for prostate cancer. In November and December, when the tests showed increasing risk levels, he had a biopsy to uncover the cause. The diagnosis came in late spring of last year, but although he was diagnosed during track season, he didn't let it affect his coaching morale.

"I started radiation treatment in May of last year; it wasn't bad, but it made me really tired," Shenfeld said. "My first treatment at Lutheran was the day of the conference track meet, and of course they were running an hour and a half behind, so it interfered with that more than anything else."

Shenfeld's cancer may have gone relatively unnoticed to the student body if it had not been for the commercial he did with Lutheran. Shenfeld was approached by the producers of the commercial and was asked to be a part of it. While watching television, many students saw Shenfeld come up on the screen.

"[The producers] approached me for the commercial," Shenfeld said. "I was in there for all of the treatments, and I'm kind of a talker, and they caught wind of that and asked me to be in it."

To the dismay of many students, Shenfeld is retiring next year. It is unclear, even to Shenfeld himself, whether or not his retirement is due to the cancer.

"It was probably both [slightly planned ahead of time and because of the cancer]," Shenfeld said. "In 2006 I had open-heart surgery, so when this came along, I [questioned whether I should keep teaching]. This is my 41st year overall, and so this was the final thing that kind of made me think that maybe I should retire."

Cancer survivors often experience a drastic change in their outlook on life, but because Shenfeld has been and continues to be optimistic, the cancer diagnosis has not caused a profound change in his own outlook.

"My outlook didn't change a whole lot, I've always been a goal-oriented, positive person," Shenfeld said. "It made me a little more aware of the whole 'stop and smell the roses attitude.' I've been more open with this because I want other people just to be aware of watching for warning signs, and making sure you get checked."

▸▸INDUCTION CONTINUED FROM 1A

i nto a high school club, the ceremony's traditions have existed since NHS became a national foundation in 1921.

The 99 juniors that were inducted into NHS this year represent the largest number of inducted students from a single class at Homestead. Although such a large number may might suggest rapid membership growth from year to year, the percentage of the junior class represented in NHS is still relatively proportional to previous years as class sizes continue to grow.

NHS members represent a cross-section of students at Homestead. For many students, the drive to succeed academically translates to the desire to be an active part of student life at Homestead.

Sydney Brown (12) is the Senior Treasurer on the Executive Committee for NHS.

"People who join NHS typically meet once a month, and the Executive Committee has another meeting before each of those to plan," Brown said. "To be in NHS you have to complete 5 hours of community service, and one of them has to be tutoring, but for most of the kids getting those hours isn't hard. We also organize a coffee house in the spring for arts week, which kids can get [volunteer] hours."

Although many students relish the opportunity to be more active in school, some new members are excited to be a part of NHS merely because the prestige of the organization will shine on their transcripts.

"I'm excited in NHS pretty much because it shows that I've worked hard in school and it'll look good when I apply to college," Kevin Kaplansky (11) said.

While most of Homestead recognizes a 10.0 GPA as the requirement to wear a bright gold stole at graduation, the Wednesday night ceremony focused not on the GPA standard but on the positive principals upon which NHS was founded and that members of the club are expected to exhibit in their everyday lives.

English teacher Scott Hill is in his second year as faculty advisor of NHS. In his address to the students and parents at the NHS induction ceremony, his comic speech focused on the uniqueness of the character that many of the NHS students exhibit.

"These are the kids who when they ask me to write a letter of recommendation for them, I want to do it because it's so easy to brag about them," Hill said in his address to the audience. "...They're the type of kids who when you write in the margins on they're essays, they actually read it... They're the type of kids who when you ask them to write a poem on an object, they write one on your car..."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The administration has decided to do away with the senior lot next year.

Status: False. As long as the administration continues to enact policy adjustments, students will continue to speculate and make claims about upcoming and hotly debated changes. However, there is no merit to the rumor that the senior parking lot will be disbanded next year. Such discussion does occur on a yearly basis, though, Principal Rick Smith confirmed.

"I think the current system is working well," said.

Smith asserts that he has not heard this rumor before and assures students that next year's system of parking will be similar to the current system.

"You'll have your senior lot next year," Smith said. – *Carrie Cummiskey*

▸▸FACEBOOK CONTINUED FROM 1A

Two weeks after the picture was posted online, Emamian was called to the discipline office.

"Mr. Kintz asked me if I knew why I was down here and I didn't have the slightest idea," Emamian said. "He told me that it was a violation of the rules and that I could get expelled from school if Connie was offended by the picture."

The next day Emamian was called again to the office and was told that he would receive a one-day in-school suspension because of what he recalled Kintz deeming "harassment to a staff member."

"My mom contacted both Mr. Kintz and Mr. Smith to talk about the situation and they both admitted to her that there was nothing in the student handbook that said that posting pictures on the internet from home was not permitted, but that it was a 'judgment call,'" Emamian said.

Kintz declined to comment on Emamian's specific incident, but was able to discuss Internet-based discipline cases in general. Unlike Emamian's account, Kintz maintains that Emamian's punishment was not merely a "judgment call" and that the handbook does address the online posting of pictures. He specifically indicated pages 15 and 20, which detail policies regarding student technology and photographing or videotaping during school. These pages also address text messaging during school hours and the appropriate use of district computers.

When Emamian returned to Study Hall, he told fellow classmates about the punishment that he had received. At the end of the class period, Meredith overheard Emamian complaining about his punishment and apologized to Emamian.

"I wasn't mad at him. I didn't think it was that big of a deal."

CONNIE MEREDITH
Study Hall Supervisor

"She was apologetic because of the punishment I had just gotten," Emamian said. "She said she had nothing to do with it and that she was not offended by the [picture posted online]."

Meredith confirmed that she was not irked by the snapshot.

"I wasn't mad at him," she said. "I didn't think it was that big of a deal."

The Facebook picture-posting incident is not the only time a discipline concern of this nature has occurred. Last year, a group of freshman students posted a picture of Mrs. Rosalind Miller, a former math teacher. According to his classmates, the student was not formally punished.

"It was kind of a group of us who posted the pictures of [Miller] on Facebook," Eric Schepper (10) said. "No one really got in trouble for it. They just called us to the office and told us to take the pictures down."

Emamian now views the incident as a thing of the past, but is still bitter about being punished according to a less-than-concrete rule.

"I didn't mean to offend anyone, [Connie] wasn't offended by it and since the school really doesn't have a policy on it I just don't see the big deal about it," Emamian said. "Do I think they are trying to set an example of me so that teachers do not have to worry about their picture being taken? Probably. It's just frustrating that there aren't rules about it and I still got punished."

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett visited Bosse High School in Evansville, Ind., in September to discuss the advantages of distributing netbooks for classroom use. Since being sworn in at the start of 2009, Bennett has amassed both searing criticism and overwhelming praise for his education reform proposals. His newest initiative advises aspiring educators to complete more content-area classes in college than pedagogy courses.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

Girls' summer snapshots do not warrant disciplinary action

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Social networking sites have mushroomed over the past few years. With them have come new opportunities for online tomfoolery – and for punishment, whether appropriate or not.

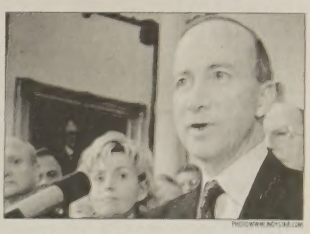
The right to take disciplinary action on photos from these sites is, at best, hazy, as they are such a recent development. A few cases are clear cut, though; if, say, athletes sign a pledge not to drink and school administrators snoop around on Facebook and find evidence, it is constitutional to discipline them. Such a case occurred last year at Eden Prairie High School in Minnesota. Usually, these incidents result in students being banned from extracurricular activities.

However, even harsher action was taken for lesser offenses in a recent incident at Churubusco High School in Churubusco, Ind. For posting racy photos on MySpace over the summer, on a private page, two sophomore girls were suspended from sports and other after-school activities.

While this happening is not unusual, as the Supreme Court has decided that students may be punished for activities that occur outside of school, extreme shame and humiliation was forced upon the girls when the school required them to apologize to the all-male Athletic Board and to take counseling sessions. They are now in an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit to protest the measures taken.

The internet is a dangerous place, and students should be careful about what they post. Still, many students besides the ones found out by creeping school administrators post pictures of misconduct. In the Churubusco case, we believe the girls should not have been punished at all; their private summer activities, unrelated to school and reported by an unknown person, do not violate the student handbook by "creat[ing] a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment." The school district overreacted, and unacceptably so.

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *While the teens generally exercised poor decision-making, their actions did not cause a material disruption to the school day.*



Indiana Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels speaks to the graduating class of 2009 Butler University in the state capitol city last May.

Governor's view on schools too elitist

Daniels citing radical philosophy with endorsement of Murray book

BY CELIA GRUNDMAN
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

Your governor, Mitch Daniels, thinks that too many of you are going on to college. He wants all students to be tested and branded at an early age, to be classified and divided. Mitch Daniels is a fan of Charles Murray.

Charles Murray, through his infamous book "The Bell Curve," has supported social Darwinism, pseudo-scientific racism and his belief in a so-called "cognitive elite." These views are further alluded to in "Real Education," in which he states that "one of the most damaging messages of educational romanticism has been that everyone should go to college." According to Murray, an IQ test should be given to 6-year-olds to determine whether they will go on to college or to skilled labor programs.

At a recent Indiana Education Roundtable meeting, Daniels handed out copies of Murray's "Real Education" to the attendees, saying that it "changed the way I think about education." The Education Roundtable was established in 1998 and has such objectives as "ensuring the state has world class academic standards for student learning" – but, if Daniels is to have his way, a stratified society will keep some students from their potential, and the goal of improving Hoosiers' educations will not be met.

As Congressman Vernon Smith writes, such philosophy is "a throwback to 50 years ago when African-American and other students from economically struggling families were told they could never achieve beyond low-paying, dead-end jobs." Students should not be limited by a number from a standardized test or their circumstances; Murray, in "Real Education," asserts that children from low-income households cannot be significantly assisted by even the best schools. However, there is no sound scientific evidence to prove this, and each student's education must be considered individually. Everyone learns differently, everyone must be given an equal opportunity.

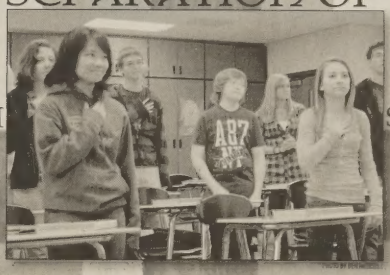
America is founded on the principle of equality, a principle that we have strived for since the nation's birth. Equality in America is equality of opportunity. Murray is correct that not everyone has the same level of intelligence (though this is not determined by race!), but to categorize students on such a basis and at such an early age limits any promise of future potential. Greg Porter, a Representative from Indy, is a chairman of the House Education Committee and a member of the Roundtable. He graduated from Shortridge High School and Earlham College – which, he notes, would have been unachievable had he been under Murray's suggested system as a child, for he would have been "written off" for struggling in the third grade.

Governor Daniels' shocking appraisal of and promotion of Murray's book reveals a disturbing and dangerous mind. The claims of the book are unfounded and even cruel, advocating the limitation of children everywhere. Unsettling messages found in "Real Education" left many educators from the Roundtable meeting alarmed and unsettled. Wendy Robinson, superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools, said that "The book goes against everything I believe as an educator." We can only hope that widespread disapproval will prevent Daniels from bringing his elitist views to life.

"We can only hope that widespread disapproval will prevent Daniels from bringing his elitist views to life."

CELIA GRUNDMAN
Opinion Editor

REVISITING THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH STATE



BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

Religion has long been a subject of contention in public schools, and despite the arguments of those, who erroneously believe that the nation was founded on religious principles and such principles should be continued in modern schools, the fact remains that promotion of religion in any state-supported institution is thoroughly out of place, unconstitutional and unethical.

The constitution specifically prohibits endorsing certain faiths and denominations at the expense of other sects, a statute that seems to have been left in the dust at Homestead, as Campus Life is advertised during lunch and, at times, on the morning announcements. Such an allowance is appallingly invasive, and should be considered unconstitutional; promoting youth groups promotes certain denominations of Christianity and should therefore be prohibited.

The debacle of teaching evolution versus creationism in science classes has also been prevalent for quite a lengthy period of time. As science revolves around logic and rational fact, it only makes sense that evolution be taught in favor of creationism; evolution is a widely accepted scientific theory merely a step away from becoming scientific fact, and creationism is entirely subjective speculation with no concrete proof whatsoever. Science comes from proof and evidence, both of which evolution provides and creationism does not, therefore evolution is clearly the logical and constitutional choice to be taught in science classes. As creationism is a religious premise, it is not the place of the school to take a stance upon it.

Moreover, perhaps the most litigious issue of religion in schools is the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. It is neither the responsibility nor the place of the school to promote the opinion that America exists under God; doing so specifically endorses monotheism and is therefore unconstitutional. In 1962, Engel v. Vitale ruled that it is unconstitutional for state officials to compose prayers to be recited in school - including the phrase "under God" is much the same as composing a prayer, as is offering the moment of silence that was originally intended for prayer. The First Amendment mandates government neutrality upon religious matters, and by imposing religious belief upon those who do not hold it, the Pledge is a failure in objectivity that must be rectified.

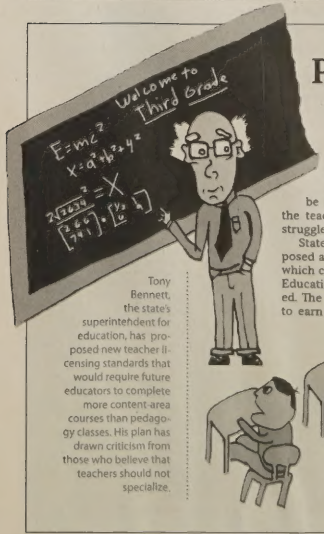
"The American government seems to have forgotten that public school is not the venue in which to advertise any specific religion, let alone religion itself at all... religion has absolutely no place in schools beyond history courses."

ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor

The American government seems to have forgotten that public school is not the venue in which to advertise any specific religion, let alone religion itself at all. As public schools are state-supported institutions and the Constitution stipulates that church and state be separated, religion has absolutely no place in schools beyond history courses. Secularism is key to a democratic society.

Above: Students prepare to say the Pledge of Allegiance during their second-period class Monday.

Pedagogy classes need reform not replacement



Tony Bennett, the state's superintendent for education, has proposed new teacher licensing standards that would require future educators to complete more content-area courses than pedagogy classes. His plan has drawn criticism from those who believe that teachers should not specialize.

BY CHRISSY VERHOFF
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

At some point, most students encounter the type of teacher who simply does not know how to teach. The teacher may be an expert in his subject; however, even the teacher with the greatest knowledge may struggle to transfer that information to students.

State Superintendent Tony Bennett has proposed a new plan for the education of teachers, which completely contradicts the ideas that U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has promoted. The plan would essentially require teachers to earn a certain degree in their content area, while the number of pedagogy courses, or classes on teaching, would be limited. Elementary teachers would be required to earn at least a minor in one subject, while secondary teachers would major in their content area and minor in education.

Bennett's idea sounds logical at first glance because teachers who are experts in their subject are obviously needed, but limiting classes on how to teach would bring major consequences. Simply because a person has a great deal of knowledge does not necessarily mean that he would be a great teacher. In fact, his students may learn less than those of a skilled teacher with less content knowledge. The most logical part of the proposed plan is the requirement for secondary teachers to major in their content area. Because high school classes typically draw on college preparatory coursework, these students can only benefit.

Elementary teachers, on the other hand, present an entirely different situation. Nearly every one of them must possess a general knowledge of each core subject, and because the content taught is quite simple, a teacher's advancement in any given subject is not as practical in comparison to that of a high school teacher. Even a minor in one area may be unnecessary for an elementary teacher, as the actual teaching methods tend to have the most immense impact on young students. For example, a degree in English will most likely not help a kindergarten teacher teach the alphabet. Much more helpful would be a degree in education, which would introduce the teacher to different techniques in helping students with various needs. This is where Bennett's plan fails the most: courses on how to educate pupils would be limited, jeopardizing the education of too many students.

30
Number of pedagogy credit hours for elementary education majors under Bennett's teacher licensing proposals

A main belief among supporters of the plan is that these pedagogy courses required for a teaching degree are unpractical, and rarely relate to the actual profession of teaching. This is completely believable, which is why these courses should not be limited to a smaller number, but rather, changed into more useful courses. Rather than taking only theoretical classes that would not actually assist in teaching, future teachers should be required to take more "hands-on" courses, or take part in a preparatory program in which they would interact with real students. These types of courses and programs already exist, but by replacing impractical pedagogy classes with more realistic ones, new teachers will be more prepared, and in turn, the education of Hoosiers would improve drastically.

CARTOON BY CAM SAMMONS

LIFESTYLE

the LIMPSE

PHOTO BY LIZZIE BUCKLEW

The day after Thanksgiving is one of the most important days in the retail world. Known as Black Friday, this day is devoted to sales, steals, and more sales. This is the one time of the year when people can find 50" plasma screen televisions for $500. Almost all stores in the area participate along with a majority of money-saving families. Due to the bad economy, this year looks to be extremely crowded years, so get in line early for the best savings.

Monty Python fans celebrate anniversary

By Nicole Ivanovic
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Get ready to break out the popcorn and remember some British comedy, because 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark pop culture phenomenon Monty Python. This group's ability to make viewers all over the world laugh has continued to please its audience for generations.

First aired in 1969, Monty Python's Flying Circus continued to inspire raucous laughter and, later, copious imitations for four seasons and eventually 14 prolific years of comic gold. Leader of the pack John Cleese and his sidekicks based their comedy upon common occurrences in everyday life, highlighting inconsequential things such as disgruntled customers in "The Cheese Shop" and "The Dead Parrot."

"Laughing at such randomness seems to be something people are born with, which is why Monty Python transcends generations," Matt Wildrick (11) said.

The characteristics of Monty Python are what defines its popularity for many, and can be found in the relentless individuality of each episode.

"The bizarre actions and edgy plot make it a show that any age can watch time after time," Allison Gehring (11) said.

Yet for the linear thinker, Python's comedy may seem too abstract and scattered. The non-sequential and oft unrelated narration provides a sharp contrast to the television comedy of the contemporary era, which is often based upon modern convenience and presented in a compact, sequential format.

"What is great about Monty Python is that it contains a healthy sense of the absurd and goes out to the wild degrees of the imagination. When compared to other sketch shows such as Saturday Night Live, the writers on those shows play it safe, not reaching out as far as Python did," Travis Fisher, English teacher and avid Python fan, said.

While American television is humorous in its own right, British humor is characterized by the peculiar droll wit that Monty Python exemplifies. Python's portrayal of British society presented a balance of satire interspersed with brief seriousness, making it almost impossible to duplicate.

"The humor that Monty Python uses is very simple. You don't have to understand what exactly is going on in the outside world when the jokes were written; they don't really focus on the troubles and complexities of their time," Wildrick said. "I think that it has had a much greater effect upon today's comedy world than practically anything else from its time period. It was just so incredibly good that I would not be surprised if it is still celebrated 100 years from now."

PLACES AND PRICES

Best Buy- Rise of Monty Python (2 Disc)	$14.99
Barnes and Noble- Monty Python and the Holy Grail	$12.74
Best Buy- Best of Monty Python: 40th Anniversary Edition	$49.99
Amazon.com- 40th Anniversary Box Set	$49.99

fiction folk friendship

PHOTO BY LIZZIE BUCKLEW

Mr. Clough (left) and Mr. Jankowski not only teach English, the two are close friends and perform music together due to a common love of playing the guitar.

By Elana Merritt
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Spartana: How long have you known each other?

Steve Clough: Four years?

Howard Jankowski: Yeah, four years. Steve is one of the first people who sort of stepped up and took me under his wing here.

Spartana: How easy is it to form friendships with other teachers at Homestead?

Jankowski: It's easier with some people than with others. There are some people that you're just going to get along with really well and some people that you're nice to in the hallway but not really close with. It's just like any social situation -- you meet certain people that you click with.

Spartana: Is it easier within your department?

Clough: Not necessarily. I think that there are people you respond to because of academics, which binds you in an academic way, and then there are people you establish relationships with because of other common interests.

Jankowski: It's those that really blossom into good friendships, I think. It can't just all be rooted in work.

Spartana: Do you ever discuss literature?

Clough: We talk about English literature teaching and meanings of the works we teach. Sometimes a student suggests a new idea that nobody has thought of before, so we'll chew on that, too.

Jankowski: We'll share things that relate to what we're teaching. We recommend books to one another, but I don't know that we ever sit around and debate it.

Spartana: What does your friendship specifically mean to you?

Clough: Well, we play guitar together, we perform together, and I think it's, in a sense, like father and son because I'm so much older than Mr. Jankowski is, but then it's different than that, as well. We'll get together and do coffee in the afternoons, talk about things both school and outside of school just like normal friends. If I need advice, I have no problem at all going to ask him for counsel, or for models on things, because I think he's an outstanding teacher.

Jankowski: I think the only father/son part of it is with age and the fact that Mr. Clough can offer wisdom on certain issues that I might need to talk about, but when it really comes down to it, it's different. Having someone to share things about your life with is great regardless of age.

Clough: Plus, he's friends with both of my daughters [laughter].

Jankowski: It's been sort of a family affair, I suppose [laughter].

Spartana: What public venues have you performed at together?

Jankowski: We've played at Espresso Gallery in Fort Wayne, Kenepocomocha and we play in acoustic club. Maybe every other week we do something musical together.

Spartana: Does playing together add something to your music that playing solo doesn't?

Jankowski: Definitely.

Clough: If you're performing with two, there's somebody to bail you out if you mess up [laughter]. We do some things together, but we alternate.

Jankowski: A former student said to me, about seeing us play together, was that what makes it so cool is that there's a bond between the two of us and the audience is let in on that for a couple of hours. There's something really welcoming about that.

Spartana: Is it important for student musicians to be able to perform for others?

Clough: That was one of the main things that was the rationale for starting Acoustic Club. In 2007, I was in England for six weeks and was invited to a folk club where everybody brings their instruments and performs. If one guy is singing and everyone knows the song, everyone sings along. That's how it got started here, because we knew we had some wallflower people who really wanted to perform, but had no venue in which to play, so we wanted to put together a welcoming arena.

Jankowski: It's neat to see students who came hesitantly at the beginning and then they mustered up the courage to play a song that everyone appreciated. Now, some of those kids will come with two or three songs that they can't wait to play. It's neat to see how liberating this thing we've set up can be. I think there's a real sense of belonging -- it's not just an audience, it's a community because affirmation and support comes with it. There are different skill levels, but everyone is respected and appreciated for what they do, and that's what's wonderful about it.

KILL the turkey bury the hatchet

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

My thanksgiving breaks are typically passed spending "quality time" with my extended family. I use the phrase "quality time" loosely because among the awkward hugs with my male relatives, the unfamiliar feast that my mother clearly did not prepare, the relentless refusal of the boys to hand an Xbox controller to a girl and perpetually getting stuck at the kids table, I most often unwittingly transform into a wallflower for the duration of the holiday.

That said, I strangely enough love the idea of Thanksgiving. The story is familiar enough. In 1621, 53 Pilgrims sat down with a group of 90 Wampanoag natives and celebrated the harvest with a three-day feast as was traditional in English custom.

> "...The idea that these two worlds could be together for three days without attacks, raids and smallpox blankets is a feat in its own right."
>
> **CARRIE CUMMISKEY**
> *News Editor*

While I have no naïve and glorified notion that the Pilgrims and Native Americans were sitting in a circle holding hands around the campfire, I hold onto the idea of what the original Thanksgiving represents. These two extraordinarily different groups of people from different worlds were celebrating not only a harvest, but their survival, and they were celebrating it together.

Though "together" for the Pilgrims might have meant sitting awkwardly on the other side of the feast, the idea that these two worlds could be together for three days without attacks, raids and smallpox blankets is a feat in its own right. While I don't deny that those came later, for a time, there was peace, as awkward and unsure as it was.

I suppose the reason that I love the Thanksgiving story so much is that like the Pilgrims and Native Americans, I can relate to that feeling of awkwardness around the holiday. While I might not know much about my extended family on any sort of deeper level, I don't at all mind being the awkward Wampanoag in the corner.

The time my family spends together is important. Though we might not all be the best of friends, we support each other. We rely on each other. We need each other. We're all interdependent, and that support system has to be there. That's what Thanksgiving was about almost 400 years ago, and that's what it's about for me today.

By Flor Ortega
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

I do not celebrate Thanksgiving. While this fact may seem scandalous to most of my fellow Americans, it is a simple fact of life for me because I am Mexican. What people fail to realize is that Thanksgiving is solely an American holiday. It amazes me that people enter into a stupefied state of shock when they learn that this celebration, which is centered on the excessive consumption of food, is exclusive to America the land of the obese.

> "It's a ridiculous competition to see who stuffed the most insane amount of mashed potatoes into their already satisfied stomachs."
>
> **FLOR ORTEGA**
> *Guest Writer*

In theory, Thanksgiving is a jovial gathering of friends and family who lovingly commune to enjoy each other's company and give thanks for all of the wondrous blessings in their lives. Yet, on the Monday after Thanksgiving break, all that I ever hear from my American peers is how they spent the entire weekend indulging in all sorts of scrumptious food. It's a ridiculous competition to see who stuffed the most insane amount of mashed potatoes into their already satisfied stomachs.

I have nothing against feasts and family, but the myth behind the holiday of the turkey is irrefutably absurd. It is simply ignorant to claim that the meal consumed at the alleged Thanksgiving gathering of Native Americans and Pilgrims could ever take place in a harmonious fashion. Even if no previous interaction had existed between the two races, the tension among the distinct people would have been immense and highly concentrated. Prejudices would have immediately been formed on both sides, and the language barrier would have made a happy meal impossible. A panicking, deranged Native American woman most likely launched corn at a senselessly naïve colonist who took the act as a savage means of welcoming; the meal most likely evolved from there into a romanticized and idealized view of a jolly first encounter.

Despite the hollow and ludicrous origins of the holiday, Thanksgiving is and always will be purely American commercialized, satisfying and fattening. Enjoy.

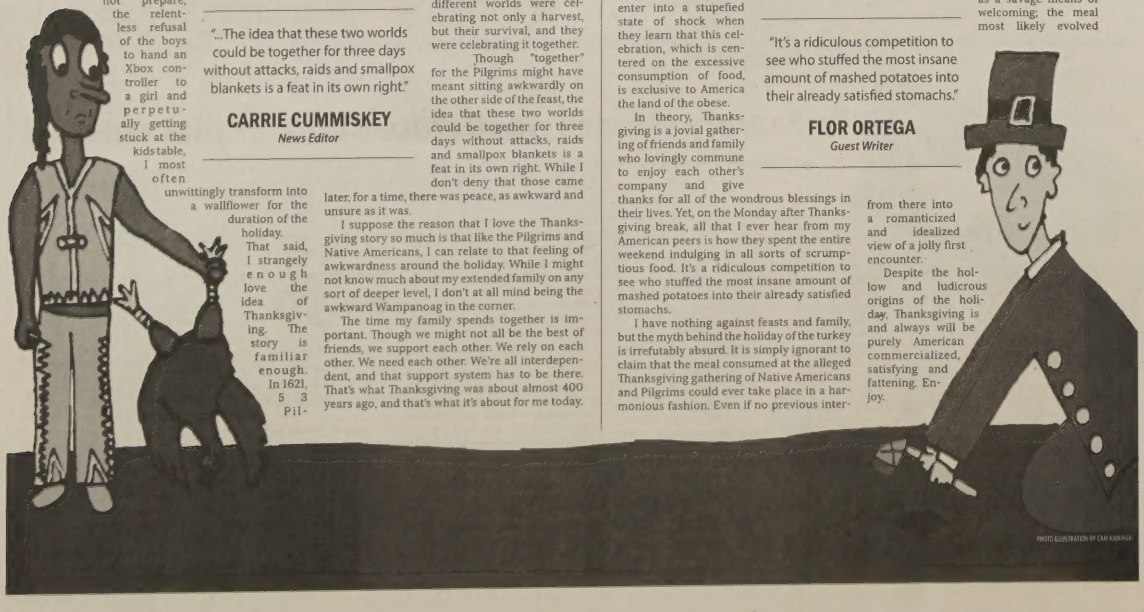


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAM KARPUSKI

Philosophy, human nature captivated in Kundera's 'Being'

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

Milan Kundera, throughout the course of his prolific career, has written numerous novels that, to me, seem matchless. His greatest success and most enchanting novel, The Unbearable Lightness of Being, epitomizes the element that makes his work so marvelously unrivaled: dreamy, thoughtfully philosophical undertones. Being is less a novel than it is a contemplative reflection upon concepts of kitsch and totalitarianism; it is an exceptional fusion of philosophy and human nature. Throughout the novel, a centralizing philosophy of lightness and weight is presented- should one be heavy or light?

A womanizing surgeon in the Soviet Prague of 1968, Tomas seems somewhat indecisive- while his promiscuity and perception of love and sex as two separate entities lend themselves to lightness, he gradually gains an iota of depth as authoritarian Soviet policy reduces him to a window-washer. The presence of his insecure and often-burdensome wife Tereza creates a heaviness that curbs his eroticism, but she also fosters a deep love, the lightness of which seems to outweigh the heaviness of exile and monogamy. Tomas lives a life of contradiction.

Self-described as weak in comparison to her husband, Tereza is an unfalteringly heavy character- while she and Tomas love one another dearly, the juxtaposition of their incompatible weight conspires to make them miserable, and she embodies a heaviness that he is unable to ignore. Her work in the line of political fire as a photojournalist brings a positive weight to her life, but her weakness and insecurity of being simply one of Tomas' many lovers constantly drag her down, so much so that she questions her heaviness.

Tomas' beloved expatriate mistress Sabina experiences life as the embodiment of extreme lightness, finding profound satisfaction in the act of betrayal - her life is no more than a series of betrayals. She declares outright war on kitsch and ugliness, but finds herself drawn to heaviness in the form of Franz, a naive professor so incapable of lightness that he ascribes dreamy meaning to ordinary events. Where Tomas gradually reforms in the face of Tereza's heaviness, Sabina rejects Franz, and consequently finds that her lightness is no longer satisfying. Franz himself dies a meaningless death in Bangkok, his epitaph of "a return after long wanderings" suggesting the tragedy of his heaviness and the futility of his life.

Kundera suggests a life beyond weight and beyond passing trivialities, but he also intimates that such a lightness of being is unbearable in its lack of meaningful significance. As Sabina serves as the only character to remain standing at the close of the novel, such a juxtaposition of lightness and weight once seemed futile to me- all characters misjudge weight so drastically that it leads to grave consequences, and as written by Jonathan Safran Foer, they thought themselves out of happiness one thousand times, but never once into it.

Truly great books should be savored and revisited. Multiple re-readings have shown me that Tomas and Tereza learn to tame their imperfect relationship through compromise, and in that balance of lightness and weight comes the true meaning of happiness.

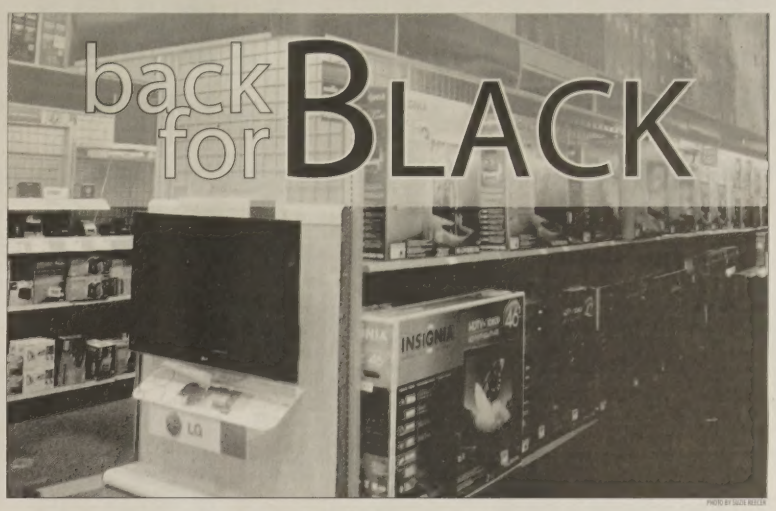


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Stores prepare for record high costumers at annual sale

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

With Christmas commercials already flooding the airwaves, the countdown to Black Friday, the year's most spend-thrifty and often most bizarre sales event, has officially begun. As the idea of saving money hits home for many local families, taking advantage of exclusive sales provides a great opportunity, and knowing how to get through the commotion is a must.

The holidays are not only a busy time for people across the world, but also for the stores providing the goods.

"To prepare for all of the people that will come to shop on Black Friday, we hire more seasonal workers, expand aisles and invest in more ads during the holidays to get our sales out to the public," Javante (surname omitted in accordance with company policy), manager at Glenbrook's JC Penny, said.

With Best Buy and Target setting a precedent for getting their Black Friday print ads out the earliest, black-friday.net has already started to scope out the sales in advances from over 80 stores, including Kohl's, CVS and Wal-Mart.

"People that are planning to shop on Black Friday should have an idea in their mind about what to buy before they get to the stores, so that they can have a smooth transition in and out," Eric (surname omitted in accordance with company policy), manager of the Jefferson Pointe area Best Buy, said. "The regulars returning from previous year often line up at the store around four o'clock on Thanksgiving Day so that they can be the first ones in the store in the morning."

Depending on the retail store and how they have prepared to make the store run as efficiently as possible, the lines can often be hectic and overwhelmingly long. Yet with the growing popularity of the Internet, stores have taken over the cyber world and are now offering many exclusive sales on their websites. According to black-friday.net, Best Buy, Circuit City and Wal-Mart will offer their Black Friday deals online around 1:00 am Eastern time on the morning of Black Friday to provide shoppers with even more time to get the best deals.

If the determined traditional shopper is prepared to stand in line overnight for their purchases, there is some prevailing advice.

"I suggest that you dress warmly, since on most Black Fridays in the past it has snowed, and you might want to have a lot of hot chocolate or coffee to keep you warm during the night," Eric said.

To the savvy entrepreneur, the long overnight stay could present a golden opportunity to set up a warm drink stand outside of popular stores to lure desperate customers who are freezing in the cold.

To some, Black Friday serves as a family tradition, as different members spread out to shop the best sales. While some people are still relaxing from their Thanksgiving holiday festivities, others will be standing in line waiting to purchase their favorite sale items. This 40 year-old tradition serves as a kick off to retail holiday shopping by starting the festivities with frenzy.

"Black Friday can almost be compared to Christmas," Javante said. "In and of itself, it's an enormous retail event for shoppers that many come out for annually with religious determination."

SALE PREVIEW

OLDNAVY opens at 3am
$5 $10 $15 off
all Marked Clothing

Stores open at 5 am
BEST BUY
HUGE savings ON movies TVs
iPods cameras games
computers phones

DOORS OPEN AT 5 AM
TARGET
these deals won't last HURRY IN

Foreign language teachers employ unique methods

Spanish instructors currently showing soap opera

BY ALEXIS YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Soap operas grip their riveted, religiously devoted audiences with heart-pounding emotions, chance encounters and skyrocketing drama. While they may seem a rather American peculiarity limited to living rooms and rainy afternoons, some may be surprised to find that they can be utilized as teaching tools in Homestead's very own foreign language classrooms.

Spanish IV teacher Mr. Peeper's classes are presently watching La Catrina, an authentic Spanish soap opera, in order to augment their comprehension of the Spanish language and its intricacies, such as slang and tone.

"I enjoy watching La Catrina because it inspires me to speak more Spanish and because it makes me want to be a soap opera actress; to live life like it was a soap opera," Gabrielle Tatara (11) said.

La Catrina presents main character Jamie Gonzalez, who travels to Mexico during the summer to work on her Spanish and learn more about her deceased great-grandmother, La Catrina. The Navarros, Jamie's Mexican family, were supposed to have a room prepared for Jamie, but they do not want her to share a room with the womanizing Carlos. As a result, Jamie stays at the Linare household. Villain Don Silvestre Aguilar is currently occupying the property left in La Catrina's will. Fearing that Jamie will ruin his political campaign and seize the property, Don Silvestre Aguilar does everything in his power to have Jamie deported to the United States.

"I enjoy watching La Catrina because of the scandals; there are numerous scandals that occur. It is quite sad how many scandals are put into this soap opera," Ashlee Larkey (11), said.

Foreign language teachers use a variety of methods to teach their students. Whereas some employ songs to remember verb conjugations, others use acronyms and symbols.

"In terms of the different techniques teachers use to teach, there are many," Peeper said. "One of the methods that I believe is the best way to teach a second language is called the communicative approach. Teachers create real world situations in which their students use the language. Teachers also use authentic materials and ensure the communication is as realistic as possible."

Despite the colorful illustrations and phonetically defined phrases included in foreign language textbooks, it cannot be ignored that an entire subculture and different dialects exist outside the book. As slang is not taught in class, students may find themselves befuddled when confronted with real-world situations.

"I believe that everything must be relevant for students to care and for students to remember," Peeper said. "The teacher's job is to make everything relevant and to help students see connections between what they already know and what they are learning, between what the textbooks teach and what they'll find in the real world."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Senora Mary Huhn teaches her Spanish three class focusing on the pronunciation of each of the new words on the vocabulary list. She also uses the white board to write separate, important notes for her students to use for studying.

NEW MOON FEVER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Moviegoers cram into a theater at Rave Motion Pictures prior to the midnight screening of "New Moon." Homestead students waited in line as early as 8 p.m. to be admitted to the highly anticipated installment. In the Twilight Saga franchise, which originated as a bestselling book series written by Stephanie Meyer,

After being announced the "Top Advance Ticket Seller of All-Time" by movietickets.com the day before the premiere, New Moon broke the record set by Star Wars and Harry Potter. Large numbers of Edward Cullen and Jacob Black lovers prepared themselves for the highly anticipated midnight showing by ordering tickets in advance.

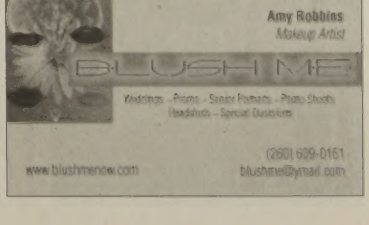
"I'm most looking forward to seeing Jacob... and all of the werewolves. Plus, I want to see more of Edward because he sparkles," commented Brittney Fleenor (12) from the midnight premiere in one of the eleven sold out theaters at Jefferson Pointe's Rave Motion Pictures Theater.

Since the success of Twilight, many crazed fans and book-lovers have been awaiting the arrival of the sequel to the Twilight Saga franchise. Carin Smith (12) commented on her eagerness to see how the climatic scene in Italy was shot in comparison to the essential closing event in the actual book. Debates have been both local and national about the change in directors from the previous movie, but critics have shown support to the vision of the new director.

– Mary Distler

TONIGHT'S 'NEW MOON' TIMES

At Rave Motion Pictures:	8 p.m.
5 p.m.	9 p.m.
6 p.m.	10 p.m.
7 p.m.	10:30 p.m.



SPORTS

the LIMPSE

PHOTO BY WWW.HOMESTEADHOCKEY2009.SHUTTERFLY.COM

The Homestead hockey team continued their already strong season against Northside Tuesday night. The team had a shutout against the Redskins, while the Spartans scored seven goals. WANE-TV recognized the Spartans as "The Team of the Week" on Monday. The squad is lead by coach Justin Glick, with captain Justin Glick, a senior at Blackhawk Christian. So far this season, the team has racked up six wins with only one tie against Northrop.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Student athletes realize harsh reality of flunking off of varsity teams

By Andy Franklin
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

As winter sports begin, Spartan athletes are running sprints, lifting weights and working on their skills to prepare for their first competition However, some student-athletes are also struggling with a different challenge: the challenge of academics. The Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) requires all students throughout the state to pass a minimum number of classes in order to be athletically eligible. Every year, most sports teams lose participants to failing grades. While sports are an important aspect of many students' lives, they risk athletic suspensions if they forgo their studies.

In order to participate on an athletic team, a student must be passing at least five classes with at least a D-. This means that an athlete can flunk two classes, unless he is taking a study hall or other class in which he does not receive a grade, in which case he can fail only one. If a student is ruled athletically ineligible, he may practice with the team, but is barred from participating in any official competitions. While maintaining good grades may seem like a small task to some, many student-athletes have much difficulty balancing their studies with the responsibilities demanded by their respective sports.

"I don't really think it's that difficult to balance your schoolwork with your athletic responsibilities," Evan Pyle (12), basketball player, said. "You just have less free time to do things like playing Call of Duty, so you have to make sure you're doing what you need to do to succeed in school."

Athletes who participate in winter sports also have more pressure to keep their grades up than those in fall and spring sports. When grades are released at the end of the second quarter, students' athletic eligibility is judged by their first semester grades. This means that both their first and second quarter grades must be up to par in order for students to be eligible. In addition, if a student is ruled academically ineligible, she will not be able to be reinstated until grades are released at the end of the third quarter. By this time, most winter sports' seasons have ended, leaving the affected students to wait until the next season begins.

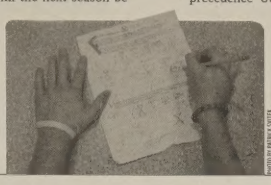


PHOTO BY PATRICK SWITEK

"After I found out that I couldn't play for the rest of the season, I felt like I shouldn't have given up on my grades that year," Desmon Powers (12), basketball player, said. "But it really motivated me to improve in school so I could come back and play the next year."

Despite the fact that student athletes are never happy to sit on the bench due to academic ineligibility, the IHSAA's rule is necessary. Students know that they are in school to learn; athletics are an extracurricular activity which must not take precedence over students' studies. Coaches agree that the rules are needed.

"I think the policy is just about right," Randy Pursley, coach of the wrestling team, said. "Student-athletes have to remember that they are students first. The policy allows students a little leeway in case they are struggling, but it still requires them to take care of their studies."

PHOTO BY SUZIE BEEKER

One and DONE

Soccer season wraps just shy of state championship

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Every year, coaches strive to get their team ready for the postseason and improve on the previous year's finish. For Coach Paco Castillo and the boy's soccer team, improving on last year's finish could only mean going to the state championship game.

Improve is just what the team did, beating 14th-ranked Columbus North 4-1 in the state semifinal game in Indianapolis. Last year, the team lost 1-0 to eventual champion Evansville Memorial in the state semifinal game.

"It hurt that we thought we could make it to finals last season and lost, but there was a lot of motivation that came from that game," Kegan Harkenrider (12) said.

"Obviously, we wanted to work hard throughout the season and even harder during the playoffs to make it further than we had last year."

The team was able to play a solid game against Columbus North and received contributions from everyone on the team. All-American Harkenrider found the back of the net twice, while Tom Ault (12) and Connor McMahon (12) each had one goal. Stud goaltender Justin Hanford (12) faced three shots and turned away two.

"Winning by three goals in the semifinals was a huge confidence booster heading into the night game against Zionsville," Ault said. "We knew every team that was at state was playing well, so to win like that was huge for the team."

That same day, the team played for the championship against fourth-ranked Zionsville, a team that had made it to the state championship last season. Unfortunately, the team was forced to play without Patrick Slee (11) and Caleb Castillo (11), who were both suspended from the team before the state tournament. Homestead got an early lead with a goal from none other than Harkenrider, who scored off of a pass from McMahon.

"It was a great ball placed from McMahon; it really fired the team up," Ben Hazen (12) said. "We knew, as a whole, if we could hold [Zionsville] to just one goal we would have a chance to win late, so to get that goal helped us."

However, Zionsville was able to respond with three unanswered goals, including a penalty kick goal from last year's state Gatorade Player of the Year Harrison Petts.

Homestead was able to shut Zionsville down until the penalty kick, but was unable to generate much offense after Harkenrider's goal in the 16th minute, making just two shots on goal the entire game.

"It was difficult to shut them all down, but we did play a little defensive. The first 15 minutes they really dominated us, but we were able to generate a goal," Hazen, who was the team's top defenseman this season, said.

While championship games are benchmark games for every team, the Spartans had a very telling game against Warsaw for the semi-state championship. With Harkenrider unable to play, the team needed contributions from other players–including those on the bench. Midfielder Francis Zirille (10), a bench player, was able to notch the game winning goal in the first half of the game.

"Losing Harkenrider was a blow heading into our game [against Warsaw], but we had younger players like Zirille and some freshmen contribute the entire game," Ault said.

"Showing that type of depth during the game gave us a lot of confidence heading into the state games."

As for next year, the returning players feel confident despite losing nine seniors. Goaltender Austin Williams (10) will have large shoes to fill with the departure of state record holder Hanford. Losing an All-American in Harkenrider, other players, such as Michael Wendlandt (11) and Rodney Stephens (11), who had a combined 15 goals and seven assists coming off the bench this year, will be looked upon to fill the void of the departing seniors.

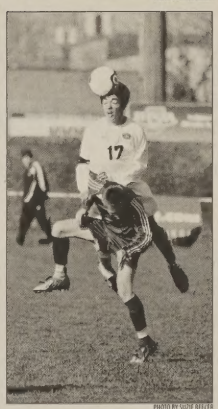
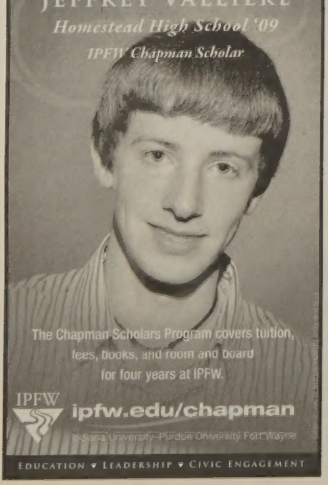


PHOTO BY SUZIE BEEKER

Top: Kegan Harkenrider (12) celebrates after scoring one of his three goals of the day. Above: Frankie Zirille (10) attempts to block a defender.

CONGRATULATIONS
JEFFREY VALLIERE
Homestead High School '09
IPFW Chapman Scholar



The Chapman Scholars Program covers tuition, fees, books, and room and board for four years at IPFW.
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Football season comes to wash-out ending

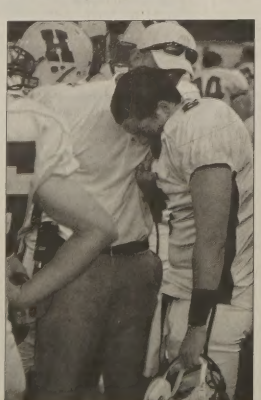


PHOTO BY JACOB COOK

A.J. Terry (12) shares his emotions with athletic trainer Todd Jenkins after a postseason showdown.

As it turns out, the Spartan football team's biggest enemy this season was not sectional champion rival Warsaw, but the rain. As the clouds rolled in on the dark Friday evening of Homestead's sectional game against Warsaw, students witnessed a repeat of the weather conditions of Homestead's only loss during the regular season against NHC rival Norwell. The Spartans lost to Norwell 7-21 at the beginning of October.

The Spartans put up a good fight in the sectional game, keeping the Tiger's point total to 10, but it just wasn't enough. The team lost by a field goal kicked late in the third quarter. The Spartans started off well with a two yard run up the middle by Brad Mills (11) to give the team an opening 7-0 lead. The Tigers then retaliated in the second quarter with a seven yard pass for a touchdown, and it was the field goal in the third quarter that ended up giving Warsaw the 10-7 win.

The Spartans did well in the NHC this year with an 8-1 record, but the rain and mud that caused the Spartan's first loss to Norwell in mid-October came back to haunt them in the sectional game. Only this time, the loss ended their season.

"It was mind-numbing, unexpected and certainly disappointing. We thought we were going to win -- not that we're conceited -- but we were just confident, and it wasn't like we slacked or gave up," Joe Kaufman (12) said. "We held to our motto. We never said die, but when it came down to it, we just couldn't produce. It wasn't our night." – *Connor O'Hara*

ALL-TEAM CONFERENCE WINNERS

First Team

- Joey Dynako (12)
- Cody Harris (12)
- Collin Harruff (12)
- Zach Terrel (10)
- A.J. Terry (12)
- Steve Lowden (12)
- Anthony Mullen (12)
- Desmond Powers (12)

Second Team

- Cody Appenzeller (11)
- Jake Alexander (10)
- Caleb Cox (12)
- Austin Wilburn (11)
- Conor Price (12)
- Sam Nusbaum (11)

Parents outshine student body in athletic support

This is the last football story of the year–I promise. No matter how many statistics, predictions or depth charts I put into this column, the outcome of the season won't change. But there is one thing that we can all change. As I sat there in the pouring rain, I contemplated this issue with my idiotic friends, who convinced me to attend that final game in which the conditions matched the rainfall of Hurricane Katrina. And after that contemplation, I'm not sure we'll ever find a solution to this school-wide epidemic.

CUP OF JOE

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

I can't complain; it was my fault for forgetting an umbrella. It was also my decision to go to a game when there was 90% chance of rain. But after driving for nearly an hour, receiving multiple insults from Warsaw fans and sitting on the sopping wet bleachers, I was ready to watch Homestead go for the sectional title.

Less than two minutes into the game, my jeans had already doubled in weight, and I was starting to question why I didn't bring a pair of goggles to the game. I looked around and realized I could've counted the number of seniors there with only both of my hands. I couldn't believe it; the junior class had outnumbered the seniors at a sectional game.

As I started to wonder if there was a party I wasn't invited to (it happens... a lot), I realized that this game was a reflection of the student section's enthusiasm throughout the entire season. I was fortunate enough to make it to each game this season, home and away. And while most away games were dull and conversations usually turned to where the nearest concession stands were, it became apparent that home games didn't vary much from the away games.

It doesn't matter whether you sit in the second or 22nd row of the bleachers. The game feels the same wherever you sit. Mediocre chants are started by the seniors, but these echoing cries never seem to carry past the upperclassmen section. And I'm still waiting for someone to repeal the unwritten rule that underclassmen are by no means allowed to stand up at a game.

As much as I'd love to keep ranting about how low school spirit is, there is one group that deserves to be recognized. Showing their loyalty to the team, they made it to every game this season. Even though their group was small in numbers, they made the entire student section look uninteresting in each game this season. I still find it ironic that this group isn't a part of the senior class, or a part of Homestead. The people that symbolize what a student section should be are the football players' hollering, whooping parents.

Even though they're only about a tenth of the size of the student section, they cheer louder than nearly everyone else in the stands combined. As the cheerleaders begrudgingly stood in the rain in front of the student section, I took a look over my right shoulder and saw the parents making their own creative cheers. Who did they think they were? They were trying to actually motivate the people around them and encourage the team. Why weren't they trying to act as cool as possible by acting like the game didn't matter? And don't get me started on their outfits. It seemed downright outrageous – almost socially unacceptable – that someone would actually wear the colors of the home team to a game.

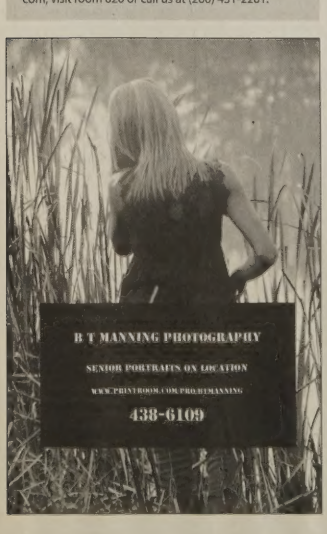
> "But in all seriousness, I think we all could learn something from some of the parents. Yes, I understand what you're thinking: The parents are obliged to go their sons' games, rain or shine. But unlike students, when a parent is asked if they are going to a game, their first response isn't always 'Is it going to rain?'"
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

But in all seriousness, I think we all could learn something from some of the parents. Yes, I understand what you're thinking: the parents are obliged to go to their sons' games, rain or shine. But unlike students, when a parent is asked if they are going to a game, their first response isn't always "Is it going to rain?" I'm not sure if the student body is aware of this, but last time I checked, umbrellas actually can stop the rain from touching your ever so delicate skin.

So please Homestead, can we try not to have our student section shown up at next year's football games. It's the least we can do for ourselves, and if we can't do it, then maybe the enthusiastic parents should be the ones standing in the front row. I, for one, would love to see the student body acting as a whole; hopefully, it'll be different by the time basketball season comes around. But until that happens, I'll just sit through season after season, waiting to be as old as the energetic parents. Then, as I reach my mid-40s, maybe, just maybe, I'll be allowed to cheer for my team.

YOUR TURN

The only thing more valuable than our two cents is yours — drop us an e-mail at thespartana@gmail.com, visit room 620 or call us at (260) 431-2261.



STAYING HOT *in the* COLDEST SEASON

the WINTER sports PREVIEW 09-10

Sports Editor Joe Hanauer takes the temperatures of each team for the upcoming athletic season

GIRLS' SWIMMING

▶ Emeri Taivalkowski (12)

PHOTO BY SAZIE REECER

After a finish like last year's, it's difficult to set the bar any higher for the girls' swim team. Last year's finish showed other top schools that the Homestead girls' swim team is a strong competitor state-wide. Last year, McKenzie Bagan ('09) finished first in the 100-yard butterfly, while her younger sister, Tori Bagan (11), finished first in the 100-yard breastroke. They also were the first two siblings to win individual state championships at the same state meet. Their finishes pushed the rest of the team to a 3rd overall finish in the state championship competition.

After an entire season of training in the pool and on dry land, the Spartans are ready to fulfil the expectations of their coaches.

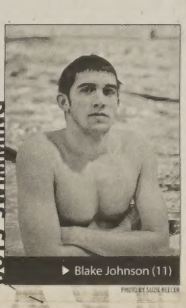
The team opens their season Dec. 1 against East Noble. While the team has generally dominated every other team in the Fort Wayne area, they'll still have to swim their best this season to make it deep into the postseason.

With a well-rounded team like Homestead has, it's no surprise that they are always able to prove themselves after the regular season.

The team is led by elite swimmers **Emeri Taivalkoski (12)** and Bagan. Both have shown their leadership in the pool and can serve as role models to younger swimmers. Watch out for underclassmen Mariah Hamil (10) and Raelynn Chastain (9). These two are both expected to have great seasons, and a make a strong impact on the team. The depth that this team has will make the difference when the postseason comes around.

The team's biggest rival this year will be either Carroll or Snider. Both have always posed as the teams toughest competition during the season. They're are expected to meet both of them in invitationals this season. *– Joe Hanauer*

BOYS' SWIMMING



▶ Blake Johnson (11)

PHOTO BY SAZIE REECER

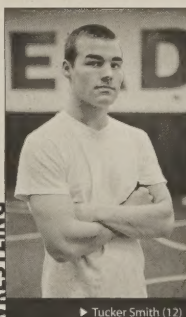
After finishing 7th in the state meet last season, the Homestead boys' swim team lost many of the key components of their team due to graduation. The team lost key components of its relay teams, but **Blake Johnson (11)** and Logan Johnson (11) are both returning to bolster the relay teams. Also, look for Jacob Furnas (11) to improve on his 30th placement in the state finals in the 200-yard freestyle and gain much needed points for the team this winter.

Blake Johnson returns to the pool as an upperclassman and will be looked upon to carry the team. Johnson swam in the 200-meter medley relay, the 100-yard butterfly and the 400-yard freestyle relay in the state finals last year. If Johnson can win events late in the season, look for the team to be back in the state finals come February.

The team's most important meet this season will take place on Feb. 20, the night of the sectional competition at South Side High School. The team's first place finish in last year's sectionals propelled them into the state finals. This year, the Spartans need a solid finish at the sectional competition to advance to yet another state finals meet.

Even though the team lost several seniors from last season, they are now looking to build from the bottom up with several strong underclassmen swimmers. The team hopes to win the sectional championship, but their toughest competition will have to wait until the team competes in Indianapolis. *– Andrew Weiss*

WRESTLING



▶ Tucker Smith (12)

PHOTO BY SAZIE REECER

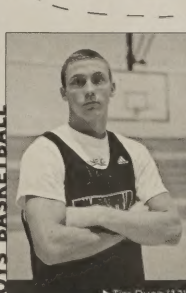
After a season that ended earlier than expected, the Spartan wrestling team hopes to learn from last year's mistakes and dominate their sectional.

Last year, the wrestling team fell short of their goals after failing to advance any competitors to the state tournament. Overall, they placed third in conference, and hope to utilize the team's experience to improve on that finish in the upcoming season.

This year, co-captain Andy Franklin (12) looks to inspire his team and lead the squad with his powerful performances. Though there are no returning state qualifiers, the Spartans can depend on senior leaders Franklin and co-captain **Tucker Smith (12)**, who both finished first in conference last season. Now upperclassmen, Brad Mills (11) and Keelan Rushing (11) look to make key contributions to the success of the squad. The first obstacle facing the team before looking to the postseason will be capturing the conference championship. The Spartans will need to defeat one of their toughest opponents, Bellmont, who has controlled the NHC for the last several years. The team will also need to get past New Haven, who beat them for the sectional title despite the fact the Spartans beat them twice earlier in the season.

If they can triumph over rivals Bellmont and New Haven during the regular season, the team will be able to prove they can compete with top-notch talent throughout the Fort Wayne area. Hoping to obtain postseason glory, the Spartans will need to stay focused and keep free of injuries during the entire season. If the team can perform as well as expected, it won't be surprising to see some of Homestead's own down at the state finals this winter in Indianapolis. *– Jalen Prewitt*

BOYS' BASKETBALL



▶ Tim Dunn (12)

PHOTO BY SAZIE REECER

The Spartans go into this year's boys' basketball season with high hopes of winning an NHC title after losing only two seniors from last season's team. The addition of **Tim Dunn (12)** from Northrop gives the team a deeper big man rotation as opposed to past years.

The Spartans also have a large number of seniors on the team this year. The seniors give the Spartans more depth and experience than last year.

"With all the seniors, we are a much tighter team than last year," Jay Curry (12) said. "We have all been playing together at the high school level for four years, so hopefully we will be able to capitalize on our experience."

The team's post players will set the pace for the Spartans this year, as Curry, Dunn, Desmon Powers (12), Evan Pyle (12) and Drew Sery (11) will all get significant playing time in the paint. Another major factor in the Spartans success is staying healthy and academically eligible. Last year, the loss of a player due to academic ineligibility halted the momentum that the team had built throughout the season. Minor injuries to this season's team could also completely alter the direction the team is hoping to go heading into the season.

The Spartans first test comes at Huntington North on Nov. 25. The Spartans will look to prove themselves in a hostile environment against a team that is also looking to start their season off with a bang. *– Max Isroff*

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

▶ Jenna Hamrick (11)

PHOTO BY SAZIE REECER

The Lady Spartans basketball team is showing promise in the early part of their season with a good showing in a preseason scrimmage against Heritage and a convincing win in their first game against Harding. The girls' team will look to continue the good start with upcoming games at home against Elmhurst and Northside.

The team is driven by Carmen Lowe (10), who found her way into the starting lineup last year as a freshman and has continued to progress through the offseason. Whitney Neal (11) and **Jenna Hamrick (11)** also contribute to a starting line up that relies on its physicality and shooting to create an early lead against its opponents.

The team also relies on defense to keep leads and stop opposing teams from blowing out the Lady Spartans. Emily Bley (9) and Kendra Dyson (12) hope to lead this year's team to a postseason run, something that did not happen last year.

Homestead will be tested early in a big game against Elmhurst. Elmhurst is currently ranked 15th in the nation by the ESPN RISE Fab 50 high school girls' basketball poll and is led by Liza Clemons, a 6'2 center who recently gave a verbal commitment to Purdue. The Spartans, a smaller team, will rely on Lowe to match up against Clemons and the school's other big girls. The Lady Spartans will need to play hard to make a deep push into the state tournament this year, but anything is possible with the athleticism of the team. *– Max Isroff*

CARTOON BY CAM KAMINSKI

the NEXT65

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

The Next 65 highlights events and things to do for the weekend. Reviews of current movies, concerts listings, upcoming theatrical productions and local hot spots such as The Cinema Center are all here. These events are all within a two-hour drive of Fort Wayne. Get some friends together and take advantage of what the region has to offer. Use these 65 hours, from 3 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday, wisely.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

BERRY'D in the CITY

Art, film combined on Berry Street

By Rachel Shinn
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Berry Street may just be a street name to those who live in Fort Wayne, but for some, it serves as the cultural center home to art galleries, theaters, libraries and more. Housed in the same building, the Artlink Gallery and Cinema Center represent the forms of art that inspire the artists.

"We've been trying to interest younger artists by holding invitationals that allow artists 16 and older to compete in their own specialty area," Deb Washler, executive director at the Artlink Gallery, said.

On display through December 2 is the Lots of Little Art exhibit featuring works of all media from pictures and drawings to sculptures. Starting December 11, Artlink will next display a new exhibit continuing through January 13.

"The gallery's great to go to even if you're not an artist. It's not so abstract that you can't understand it, but complex," Kate Colcord (11) said. "There aren't people trying to force you into buying something or really sell the artwork–you could just appreciate it for what it was."

Now through December 28, the Art Link Gallery will host the Artlink Holiday Art Market where area artists will showcase handmade items. Scarves, hats, jewelry, journals, ceramics, and other pieces of locally made functional art are on display and can serve as holiday gifts.

After parroosing Artlink, a short stroll to the back of the building leads to the Cinema Center movie theater.

The Cinema Center appeals to those who are interested in more than budget films that offer little more than special effects. While the types of films shown attract movie-goers, the Cinema Center is sometimes explained as more of an idea rather than a practice.

Showing over 100 different films each year, the Cinema Center is dedicated to bringing the best of independent, foreign, documentary, classic, and specialty films whose titles may have been overlooked on Rave's more mainstream selections.

"We always look for movies that display a different story other than your classic horror films with a good cast but badly written script, or vice-versa," Rich Lee, Theater Manager, said. "Our movies typically have a good yet unknown cast with an excellent script," he said.

Coming soon to the Cinema Center are films such as "Coco Before Chanel," "Bright Star," "A Serious Man," "Not Quite Hollywood," and "It Might Get Loud." The original Cinema Center is located at 437 E. Berry St. and second location is open at Indiana Tech in the Andorfer Commons, located at 1600 E. Washington Blvd. where movies play every night.

"It's great. We don't get the immature crowd that larger theaters do," Lee said.

The ticket prices, around $7.50 each, are moderate. The theater is smaller, older, and not quite technologically up-to-date. On the contrary, the theatre at the Andorfer Commons has comfortable seating and modern sound equipment but is only open during the school year and closed every holiday.

"While our theatre may be smaller and a bit older, you'll always get the quality movie you paid to see," Lee said. Even though not a first choice for students looking for movies, some feel the Cinema Center is overlooked.

"More people need to go see movies there," Colcord said. "I've never seen a bad movie at Cinema Center while I can name a vast amount of bad movies I've seen at Rave."

Though the student population may not find big-budget films at Cinema Center, the theater still has a modest following.

"We do attract a wide variety of people but more often it's the artsy group that comes regularly," Lee said. "They're the people who understand the value of a movie and don't go just to say they've seen it."

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

PERFORMANCES

Percussion Ensemble
Erik Schweikert will direct an ensemble of percussionists at IPFW's Auer Hall tonight at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event, which will feature selections with traditional and unique instruments, are $3 for students, $6 for adults, and $5 for seniors and are available at IPFW's Schatzlein Box Office at 481-6555

Gingerbread Festival
The History Center downtown will kick off its annual Festival of Gingerbread Wednesday night at 5 p.m. The event, complete with gingerbread cookies, will include historic Fort Wayne holiday memorabilia along with visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Gingerbread houses will also be on display. Tickets are $2 for all and can be purchased at The History Center or by calling 426-2882.

Christmas Spectacular
The Radio City Christmas Spectacular will be at the Memorial Coliseum on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. This is the first time the classic song-and-dance show has come to Fort Wayne. Tickets cost $47.50 or $71.50 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster or the Coliseum's box office.

Festival of Trees
The 25th-anniversary Festival of Trees will take place at the Embassy Theatre from Wednesday, Nov. 25 to Tuesday, Dec. 1. Tickets for the event, which features dance, organ, other performances and trees decorated by local companies, are $6 for adults and $3 for those 12 and under for each day of the festival.

"The Nutcracker"
"The Nutcracker" will perform at 8 p.m. Dec. 4-5 at 8 p.m. at the Civic Theater. More shows are available for the following week, and ticket prices vary. Tickets for this classic ballet are $25 for children 3-10, $30 for seniors and those 11-18, and $35 for adults and can be purchased by calling 484-9646.

Coffeehouse atmosphere attracts local artists

Firefly, Cupbearer Coffee House make adjustments to adapt to suffering economy

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Looking for more than just a good cup of Joe? Local coffeehouses are brewing unique menus, comfortable atmospheres, and home-town talent.

Ranging from folk rock to pop-focused, local artists choose the coffee house venue to present their talents. Gabrielle Tatara (11), performer at both the Firefly and Cupbearer coffeehouses, sings and plays guitar locally. She enjoys playing at venues around Fort Wayne largely because of their comfortable atmospheres.

"Everything feels together and homey," Tatara said about the Firefly.

Tatara also enjoys performing because large groups of her friends and family are able to support her locally.

"The places I play at are usually full of other performers, and family and friends," said Tatara, "so there's a lot of support."

The Firefly, located at 3523 North Anthony Blvd., holds live performances every Friday and Saturday night, and every Wednesday is Open Mic Night. Local artists usually perform solo and accompany their singing with either guitar or harmonica.

"The genre is mostly folk/rock and pop," Cyndi Demaree, co-owner of the Firefly, said.

Because artists are required to perform their own original compositions, the creativity found at the Firefly is extensive.

Although a few adjustments have been made due to the suffering economy, customers continue to come.

"When the economy hit us hard last winter we made several changes to keep us going," Demaree said. "The first change was in no longer paying musicians. Musicians now play for tips only and we provide them with food and drinks."

Due economic pressures, closing time has been moved to 8:00 p.m. These changes have kept the business going, but have not affected the 200-300 customers served daily.

The Cupbearer Coffee House is another popular location offering live music and is known for its family-friendly atmosphere. The Cupbearer is located in Auburn and features weekly performances including Christian rock, southern gospel and bluegrass.

A major issue that coffee house owners currently face is the required payment of large monthly licensing fees for the artists' right to perform copyrighted material.

The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) requires music venues to pay this fee, which is then used to pay its 350,000 members who compose and perform music.

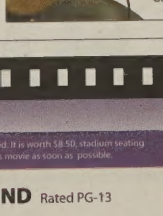
Many local music venues such as the Firefly have decided to either allow original compositions only or to discontinue their regular music performances completely, as has Higher Grounds coffee house in Fort Wayne.

"We used to have live music every Friday and Saturday night, but we don't do it anymore," said John Richards, co-owner of Higher Grounds. "We decided the fees made it unnecessary for us to have local artists playing covers."

Although many venues require artists to play original music only, Tatara believes that composing and performing is worth the hard work and that she has formed new strong friendships.

"The people that you meet who are also singers and songwriters are really nice," Tatara said. "Everyone's supporting each other. It's like a family."

UPCOMING FEATURED PERFORMERS



In addition to Open Mic Night every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the Firefly Coffee House features scheduled performances most Friday and Saturday nights at the same time. This Friday night the Firefly Coffee House will feature the acoustic stylings of the husband-and-wife duo the Walker Sherman Band. Live performances are also held most Friday and Saturday nights at the Cupbearer Coffee House in Auburn. This Friday the Master's Grace Southern Gospel group will perform at the Cupbearer from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY GABRIELLA TATARA

TAKE THREE

REDBOX REVIEW

STAR TREK
Rated PG-13

Of all the sci-fi and mystery films that have flooded the theaters this year, one of the more successful gambles was J.J. Abram's directorial dabble "Star Trek." Credited with rebooting an aging franchise, the movie was a hit at the box office and will continue to be so with its DVD release this week.

The film follows the story of Captain Kirk (Chris Pine), who is born into a world of the future. He is selected to join the USS Enterprise crew, and with the aid of his Vulcan friend Spock (Zachary Quinto). They try to save all that is good in the universe from the influence of the evil Romulans. Kirk, Spock, and the crew fight against the elusive and incredibly destructive red matter, and they even receive some help from original television-series characters, space-time continuum jumps and extra-terrestial friends and foes.

Even though the magnificent special effects seen on the silver screen may not translate as well to home viewings, the DVD has additional special features that make it out of this world. – *Molly Zweig*

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

COVENTRY 13: No longer costs $1.00 and 50 cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $3.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie. It's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

THE FOURTH KIND Rated PG-13
Rave

The best scary movies are the ones that keep people awake at night. "The Fourth Kind" is suspenseful and thrilling and will keep audiences guessing and sitting at the edge of their seats with fright.

The movie is set in Nome, Alaska, where random people are having trouble sleeping and decide to seek counseling. When psychologist Abigail (Milla Jovovich) attempts to find the reason for her patients' sleeping disorders, a chain of events reveals a troubling conclusion to many unanswered questions.

"Fourth" begins with Abigail talking about the death of her husband, which causes the audience to question much of what occurs in the movie. The plot moves slowly at first, boring the audience to the point where they may even fall asleep. However, when Abigail starts to put the pieces together, the audience will become engaged and quite frightened. The ending is disturbing and will glue the audience's eyes to the screen.

If people don't mind a few sleepless nights, this movie is highly recommended. – *Stephanie Ponton*

2012 Rated PG-13
Rave

Only one word can be used to accurately describe "2012," and not in the colloquial sense of the term: epic.

As the Mayan doomsday prediction slated for December 21, 2012 begins to surface in the guise of strange tectonic activity, divorcee writer Jackson Curtis (John Cusack, as an unlikely action hero) is lumped together with his petulant children, disdainful ex-wife and her new boyfriend to bond over collapsing city skylines, chasm-like rifts in the ground as tectonic plates rip apart and super volcanoes spewing lava. Curtis must navigate his family through a labyrinth of insurmountable danger to China, where ark-like contraptions wait to shelter survivors from the cataclysmic storm.

Is "2012" completely implausible and incredibly far-fetched? Absolutely. The nonstop action sequences are enough to make palms sweat and the phenomenal special effects are mind-blowing.

"2012" is a film of such proportions that it can only be described by teenage vernacular as epic.
– *Adrienne Westenfeld*

the SPARTANA

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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS Student government recently matched more than 85 percent of contributions to a Red Cross financial campaign. 2A

LIFE Life editor Adrienne Westenfeld recruited a panel of judges to select the best Christmas lights in Aboite township. 5A

FEATURE The varsity dance team took it to the floor once again — but this time with their hair clippings for a charitable cause. 8A

OPINION State Superintendent Tony Bennett is the nastiest Scrooge this holiday season with his continued full-day policies. 3A

SPORTS The boys' basketball team boasts a top-heavy schedule with early match-ups against its six most daunting opponents. 6A

ONLINE The Spartana's official website is under construction as its layout is rearranged. The site is expected to launch again in January.

www.thespartana.net | A 2009 NSPA Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Brenneke: Semi-formal take tops $10K

Profits from annual dance will contribute to senior scholarships, future social events

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

The Homestead cafeteria was transformed last Saturday into a medieval wonderland fit for "A Knight for a Princess." Homestead's annual semi-formal dance was held on Dec. 5 from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm and was coordinated and funded by Homestead's student government.

The event generated a total of $10,760 before cost deductions, Executive Board President Quinn Brenneke said Wednesday.

Tickets were $20 per person and were sold the week prior to semi at all lunches as well as at the door on the night of the dance.

This year's theme, "A Knight for a Princess," included elaborate decorations that transformed the cafeteria into a medieval castle complete with banners, gardens, a throne, and several life size knights.

Student government members invested time and energy to coordinate the decorating.

"There was a lot of decorating planning," student government member Haile Shine (10) said. "Carolyn [Mutton (12)], Ashley [Meruani (12)], and I met with a lady form Party Apart and she helped us pick stuff out... We also had to get security, a DJ, chaperones, coordinate the janitors letting in Teresa and the DJ to set up their stuff on Saturday, designing tickets and selling them, and everything in between."

Although the night clearly came with decorating expenses, many students question the use to which their $20 ticket fee was put since student government did no

SEE 'SEMI-FORMAL,' PAGE 2

7,000

dollars was student governmen
budget for spending on semi-fo
mal decorations.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Canterbury senior Matt Wiersema and Homestead seniors Ryan Sweazy, Cody O'Neal, Steven Repka, Jarred Gidley, Mike Tomkiewicz, Adam Kelly, Austin Foreman, Jake Renkenberger and Brett Butts pose for pictures taken prior to semi-formal.

A PERENNIALLY CHANGING SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULE HAS STUDENTS ASKING TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ONE SIMPLE QUESTION: IS THAT YOUR

FINAL ANSWER?

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana

The stress of finals is enough to make anyone complain. This year, however, many students are fixated on the final exam schedule as opposed to the content of the finals.

Unlike last year, finals will be held before winter break this year, even though the semester will not end until two weeks after the break.

The administration decided to extend the semester past finals to comply with state standards and to make Homestead's schedule convenient with other schools in the district. Since the Indiana Department of Education decided that the school year must consist of 180 school days this year, it was the administration's top priority to ensure that this standard was met. The administration also collaborated with other schools in the district to create a schedule that is convenient for all of Southwest Allen County Schools. After much consideration, extending the semester past winter break was determined to be more convenient for the district as opposed to starting the school year two weeks earlier.

The rationale for holding finals before winter break is simple. By having finals before break, students will be able to enjoy the holidays instead of spending their time studying.

Dianne Moake, assistant principal, said that this aspect was one of the decisive factors in determining the schedule.

"[The school] has always wanted students to have a relaxed vacation," said Moake. "With the new schedule, there's no pressure over the break."

Due to the schedule change, semesters this year are not the same length. Second semester is expected to be about one or two school weeks longer than first semester. However, the change should not affect classes drastically.

During the time between first semester finals and the start of second semester, teachers are expected to do projects and activities that, under time constraints of a typical schedule, would not be possible. Moake said that most teachers plan to use the time to do activities that are relevant to the class but could not be done in previous years.

"Teachers can choose what they do," said Moake. "They just have to get creative on how they handle things."

Moake said that during registration when the schedule was introduced, students and parents seemed excited that finals would not interfere with their holidays.

Students have mixed thoughts and opinions about the schedule change. Many students believe that having finals before winter break is a positive change, but that the two remaining weeks of first semester after break are not the best use

SEE 'FINAL EXAMS,' PAGE 2A

> "[The school] has always wanted students to have a relaxed vacation. With the new schedule, there's no pressure over the break."
>
> **DIANNE MOAKE**
> *Assistant Principal*

Drug use drops since formation of NAND, SADD

Survey: 25 percent of seniors ride alongside drunk drivers

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Live above the influence. Don't drink and drive. Know the truth about tobacco. Teens everywhere are constantly bombarded with the message to live life without the influence of drugs or alcohol. Even so, some students at Homestead still choose to use drug and drink alcohol.

The No Alcohol No Drugs (NAND) Task Force was formed in 2003 to combat teen drug usage in Southwest Allen County. With this came Random Drug Testing, Party Safe Homes, and the Homestead Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group.

"The goal of NAND is to give students an outlet from the pressure to use and abuse drugs and alcohol that other students insinuate," Homestead assistant principal Jennifer Bay said.

Six years later, the program cites statistics to assert that fewer students are choosing to experiment with alcohol or drugs than before the group's creation.

According to results from a March 2009 survey of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, in which 3,090 Southwest Allen County Schools middle school and high school students participated, use of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs is below the state average for all surveyed grade levels. The survey also indicates that the number of students reporting "no use" of alcohol and marijuana has increased since the inception of NAND and random drug testing.

However, the survey also reported more concerning student behavior. Reported uses of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana increased in some grade levels, and over 25% of seniors reported that they had ridden in a car when the driver was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

SADD, the student leaders of NAND, works to combat these negative statistics.

SEE 'DRUG SURVEY,' PAGE 2A

> "To do a mandatory drug test, there has to be a reason to believe. It can't just be a rumor from somebody."
>
> **ANITA GROSS**
> *SACS Social Worker*

SURVEY SAYS

Last school year, 1,836 pupils were eligible for drug testing, or 87 percent of the student body. Two students tested positive.

- Students who tested positive (2)
- Students in pool tested (276)
- Students in pool not tested (1560)

Nelson 'taking it easy' in retirement

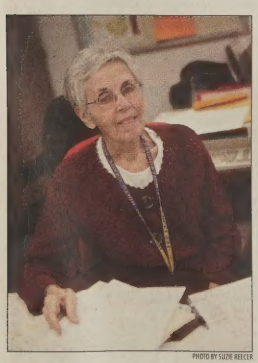


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Nelson organizes transcript release forms at her desk in the rear of Student Services. She will be retiring this year after 32 years of holding various positions at Homestead, including full-time registrar and guidance secretary.

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Phyllis Nelson, registrar, is retiring this year after having worked at Homestead for 32 years, starting in March of 1977. When she first started, she was a guidance secretary registrar at a time when the school had only three guidance counselors working. As more students began to attend Homestead and the school grew, Nelson changed to full time registrar and Cindy Fitt took over as the guidance secretary.

After retirement, Nelson plans to continue a relaxed life.

"I wish I could say I was going on lots of trips, but I don't think I'll be doing much of anything for a while," Nelson said. "Just taking it easy at home, doing what I want to do, and having my grandchildren around."

As for her time at Homestead, Nelson is leaving with positive memories.

"I've enjoyed Homestead," Nelson said. "I like the people and the students, and I can honestly say there hasn't been a day when I do not want to get up and come to work. And I think in 32 years that's kind

SEE 'NELSON,' PAGE 2A

NELSON'S TOP 4 HOMESTEAD MEMORIES

- "The idea that I was 'mom' to a lot of students. I loved coming to work."
- "The two remodeling jobs on the school. What a mess!"
- "The smallness of the school in 1977 when I really got to know the students."
- "When the guidance office was moved to the gym during renovations."

Faced with a series of messy bathrooms, janitors are not easily Potty Humored

By Molly Zweig
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

There's no rest for the janitorial staff in this room.

Homestead suffers from bathroom vandalism and graffiti just like any high school, but this problem is harder to solve than a quick, simple flush.

"Sometimes students will come to me and say this happened to this bathroom," Jeff Kintz, Assistant Principal, said.

Students, teachers, and administration report bathroom vandalism, Kintz added, and the bathrooms that are hit the hardest are on "the roads less traveled" of the building.

Maintenance staff members are then called to clean up after damage has been reported.

"We try to remove it ASAP – hopefully within 15 minutes," Gary Troost, building maintenance supervisor, said.

Though most of the cleaning is done during the second shift, which begins as the school day ends, janitors are available during the day to wipe away messes. Janitors clean just about everything in bathrooms from writing on walls to clogged toilets. They also see toilet paper stuck to walls and, as Troost said, "urine where it shouldn't be."

SEE 'BATHROOM SHENANIGANS,' PAGE 2A

BRIEFS

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL
Homestead will once again be partnering with the Jorgensen Family YMCA to host an intramural basketball league. The cost is $30 per player and teams' schedule begin Jan. 20. Registration forms, which can obtained in the discipline office, are due back by Dec. 16.

SENIOR PROCRASTINATION
Seniors planning on filling out college or scholarship applications over Winter Break must meet with Cindy Fitt in Student Services by today. Fitt must have at least a week in advance before the holiday off-time to process transcript releases and other admissions-related documents.

GIRLS' TRACK MEETING
An informational and call-out meeting for girls' track team members will be held Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. in room 527. Runners who are not able to attend the meeting but are still interested in participating in the spring sport must contact Coach Barnes by the end of the week.

SACS DANCE PREVIEW DAY
Both dance teams will be hosting the annual SACS Dance Preview Day Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the main gym. The purpose of the event is to showcase the teams' upcoming 2010 competition routines and raise money for the Children's Hope House. Donations will be accepted.

CORRECTION
The Spartana excluded senior Evan Pyle from its list of NHC All-Team Conference winners. Pyle, who plays the tackle position, was placed on the first team along with eight other student athletes from Homestead, including six fellow seniors. The Spartana regrets this error.

▸▸NELSON CONTINUED FROM 1A

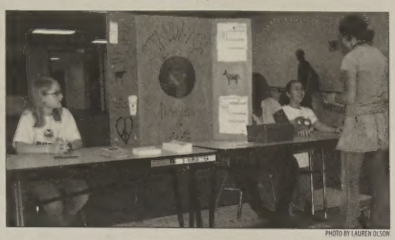
of remarkable. I enjoy being around the staff, the students, and the administration; everybody tries to work together. I'll miss the people I've worked with and the students. I've always enjoyed everybody I work with. They've been very good people to be around, and I'm going to miss them."

Just as Nelson says she will miss her surroundings at Homestead, her co-workers will miss her after she retires as well.

"I'm going to miss having her at the back desk, and her companionship," said Fitt. "She's a very easy person to get along with. Very congenial, and has a good sense of humor about her. We've gotten along very well for these 18 years."

With Nelson's 32 years of experience behind her, Homestead will suffer the loss of a friend as she continues on into retirement.

"I will miss her knowledge about everything," Gloria Junk, registrar, said. "She's been such a help to me, and I don't know what I'm going to do without her. She just knows everything. She's friendly, she's always happy, she listens, and she never complains. She's just fun to be around, and we're really going to miss her."



Celia Grundman, STAND club president, watches as a student expresses interest in filling out a pledge card. The anti-genocide group hosted STANDFast during the first week of December in which donors abstained from one of their everyday comforts.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

STAND urges three days without luxury products

STANDFast generates more than $150 in pledges

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

STAND (Student Anti-Genocide Coalition) hosted its second annual "fast," known as STANDFast, to assist in helping victims of genocide on Dec. 2, 3 and 4.

Millions of innocent Darfur residents are affected by genocide launched by the Sudanese government every year. Thousands of people have been killed, and more than 2.5 million have been displaced. 250,000 were displaced in 2007 alone. The government of Sudan systematically destroys the livelihoods of the citizens through bombing, burning villages, looting economic resources, and committing crimes against humanity such as murder, rape and torture. Recently, 16 aid organizations have been expelled from the region by the Sudanese government, putting 4.7 million people at risk.

For STANDFast, people were asked to give up one luxury item they might normally have that day, such as Starbucks coffee, lunch cookies, or ice cream, and donate the money that they would have spent on that item to STANDFast.

Last year, Homestead raised about $250. Globally, STANDFast raised enough money last year to keep the Civilian Protection Plan in Darfur running. This year, the 26 members in STAND collected money with the hope of keeping the plan running again. A total of $160.18 was collected last week.

"People usually end up just donating pocket change and don't actually fast," Celia Grundman (12), president of STAND, said. "But they enjoy filling out the pledge cards with silly things. The money is then donated to the genocide intervention network, with the proceeds assisting with programs to help refugees in Darfur and Burma."

"What we're doing is more like abstaining, rather than fasting," Omar Nadeem (11) said. "What you give up doesn't necessarily have to be food. It could be buying songs on iTunes or anything else the person donating would consider a luxury item that they purchase often."

In addition to the money donated to help those in need in Darfur and Burma, a small amount is also required to keep STAND going.

"The money that was collected during the three days will also go to the club for financing our stamps and stationary for letters that will be written to our representatives and President Obama about the situations in Darfur and Burma," Jasmine Marie (12) said.

During the three days of STANDFast, STAND members set up a display at lunch, including a bulletin board which explained the fundraiser. Money was collected before school in the IMC commons and during lunch.

"I participated in STANDFast because I think it's important to do what I can to aid the efforts to end genocide," said Allison Baer (11), a STAND member who collected money during lunch. "It's such a simple thing to do- to give up one luxury item you would normally consume. There isn't any reason not to."

Reasoning like this motivates Homestead students to give a little of themselves to those that have so much less.

"I was motivated for this because everyone has the right live, and especially the right to live freely, is very important for everybody to have," Sameerah Alkhairy (12) said. "Unfortunately, not everybody has that right, like the people in Darfur who are experiencing this genocide. So any contribution helps. Especially over there, a little bit of money goes a long way."

"Vandalism costs money when you need to spend time cleaning off stuff. It costs labor and it costs the district money."

GARY TROOST
Building Maintenance Supervisor

▸▸BATHROOM SHENANIGANS CONTINUED FROM 1A

Recently, there have also been problems with cafeteria ice cream thrown on walls, leading the administration to crack down on limiting food to within the cafeteria walls.

"Most people have no intent to throw it anywhere," Kintz said.

It takes a custodian about 30 minutes to clean a bathroom that goes through average wear-and-tear during the day.

Often, bathrooms may be closed to students due to vandalism, or else because repairs need to be made.

"If over a third of the fixtures don't operate, we'll shut it down until it's fixed," Pete Carteaux, maintenance engineer, said. "We don't have to worry about interruptions."

Carteaux said that since the school is almost 40 years old, replacement parts are harder to find. The maintenance staff, however, maintains that they are mostly worried about student and staff safety.

"If the restroom is not usable in my opinion, or we can't get to it right away, we'll close it down for a day," Troost said.

The same policy goes for any offensive words scrawled by potty-mouths on the walls.

The administration has its own methods and procedures for apprehending vandals and controlling the amount of damage done to restrooms. Students who vandalize can be removed from class and may face legal prosecution or payments for the damage they caused.

"Vandalism costs money when you need to spend time cleaning off stuff," Troost said. "It costs labor and costs the district money."

Despite the vandalism at Homestead, Troost, who has also worked as maintenance supervisor at Fort Wayne Community Schools, said that Homestead is typical in its amount of bathroom disruption.

"It's all within the parameters of being a high school," he said.

Even though the vandalism is routine for a high school, the administration and maintenance staff still try to combat the problem.

"Supervision is the key," Carteaux said.

Carteaux also said that he is in favor of administrators or teachers helping to patrol the bathrooms to help keep them cleaner. Troost said he is worried about the effect vandalism has on the custodians who are left with no choice but to manually remove the offenses.

"It demoralizes [them]," he said. "All the custodians keep the building looking as good as possible."

▸▸DRUG SURVEY CONTINUED FROM 1A

"I was asked to be a part of SADD by the administration, and we meet once a month and have pizza and talk about being a positive influence on the school," Ayesha Syed (11) said.

To attempt to keep Homestead as drug free as possible, Homestead instituted a random drug testing policy for students involved in extracurricular activities and the driving permit program. The policy was implemented during the 2005-2006 school year and has applied since then.

"When we first started the program we had a federal grant that covered the first three years, and with that money we were able to hire a person to manage the program and we were able to test a lot more students than we are now," SACS social worker Anita Gross said. "Its now paid through a state Drug Free Schools grant."

Because the program's federal grant funds have been exhausted, fewer students are randomly tested each week.

"At the high school, we're trying to do fifteen to twenty a week," Gross said.

These cutbacks have very real results. Though the pool of applicants for random drug testing has increased each year and now encompasses 1,836 Homestead students, the total number tested last year was only 276 students compared to 834 students during the 2006-2007 school year.

This dramatic drop in tests has led to rumors that suggest the program is no longer "random" but now only targets students who have a possible reputation for drug use Gross maintains firmly that this is not the case.

However, the district's 4190 Drug Testing Policy for Students does state that "the school may require a student to submit to a test for alcohol or other drugs, if a student exhibits behaviors which lead school authorities to suspect the student is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs."

"The district policy has other conditions under which we can drug test students," Gross said. "If the student has discipline problems, they can be drug tested with parent consent and the results go to the parents without school interference. We also have provisions that if an administrator believes a student is under the influence at school... then we can require a drug test, and there could be discipline action."

Gross, however, maintains that the policy does not allow or involve conducting a test based upon hearsay.

"To do a mandatory drug test, there has to be reason to believe. It can't just be a rumor from somebody," Gross said.

The fundamental goal of drug testing is to create a drug and alcohol free Homestead. Even with budget cuts, the falling numbers of students using alcohol, drugs, and tobacco support and showcase the efforts of NAND and the random drug testing program.

▸▸FINAL EXAMS CONTINUED FROM 1A

of time.

"I like that there's no studying during break," said Leah Kirby (10), "But [the two weeks afterwards] are useless, because we won't have anything to do."

Teachers are inconvenienced by the change, but they understand the reasoning behind it. The main inconvenience is adding two weeks' worth of class material to the class after break – and still preparing fair a final exam.

"[The change] presents a bit of a challenge getting material in," English teacher Travis Fisher said. "But it's in the best interest of the students."

Some teachers plan on using the two weeks as a transitional period between semesters and as a time to cover topics that will not be on the final. Teachers are also trying to make the two semesters equal in content despite the difference in length.

Although the new finals schedule may seem strange, all changes were made to benefit students and parents.

"This was the best option," said Moake. "Change is difficult, but we need to make adjustments."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The administration only briefly looks outside to decide whether or not to call a delay or closing.

Status: False. The procedure for delays and closings begins at 3:45 a.m. when Ike Doll, Southwest Allen County Schools transportation director, checks the weather forecast and drives throughout the district to assess the roads.

The decision whether or not to call a delay or closing must be made by 5:45 a.m., when Doll calls SACS Superintendent Steve Yeager to offer his opinion on the conditions. Yeager, then, legitimately makes the final decision. The decision must made early enough so that people may plan their day accordingly, especially for mothers of small children in the district who might require childcare. – *Carrie Cummiskey*

▸▸SEMI-FORMAL CONTINUED FROM 1A

rent a separate venue.

"Our budget for the dance decorations was $7,000," Shine said. "We went about $200 over [on decorations], security was $500, the DJ was $350."

In addition to this sum, student government had to account for the cost of water and cups, chaperones and clean-up in the equation for their total expenses.

Despite all of the investments, student government is able to profit each year from semi-formal ticket sales. These profits are crucial because student government uses the profits to raise funds for other activities that they sponsor throughout the year.

"The money raised from ticket sales are used throughout the year for clubs, senior scholarships, free prom tickets for seniors, MORP and Just Because Week activities, next year's Homecoming events, donations to community organizations such as the Red Cross, Earthfest, etc," student government advisor April Moss said. "Semi-Formal is our big fundraiser for the year."

In addition to raising money, the goal of the semi-formal dance is to create a magical night for Homestead students. They succeeded, and many students agree that the dance last Saturday night was exactly as the theme described, "A Knight for a Princess."

For many, the semi-formal dance is a long event that includes picking out the perfect dress or tie, finding a date, arranging dinner plans, and spending an insane amount of time pleasing someone's mom by taking awkward pictures in painful heals. This pre-semi ritual is often what stands out in many students' minds when they reflect upon their semi experience.

"It was really fun having dinner at my house and all the families pitching in to make it fun," Rachel Rifkin (12) said. "Then my boyfriend broke a bunch of glass cups by accident in front of my parents which really set the mood."

By the time students arrive at the event, many students find that hitting the dance floor is an excellent way to unwind.

"It was fun getting dressed up and all," McKenzie Pratt (11) said. "But it was awesome getting to the dance and letting loose after pictures and dinner."

▸▸10,760

dollars is final amount of student government funds raised by semi-formal before cost reductions, such as food and music.

Student government fundraiser adds $2,100 to Red Cross 'Lincolns' project

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

Homestead is a high school of many fundraisers. Whether in the form of the backroom selling candy or the sale of the famous yellow athletic area discount cards, fundraising tactics are always in progress. Recently, student government conducted a fundraiser during fifth period as an extension of the Red Cross campaign "It's All About the Lincolns." Student government members offered a pizza party incentive to the class who donated most money per classmate.

"The idea was to give as much money as possible to the Red Cross," Neil Rajdev (11) said. "Each teacher was given a jar to collect money and the class with the most money collected per student would win a pizza party."

Quinn Brenneke (12), student government president, introduced the Red Cross fundraiser to Homestead.

"The Red Cross was doing a fundraiser for themselves, and I was in contact with them, and they said 'What if Homestead helped us out?'" Brenneke said. "What they did was put collecting cans in local restaurants and other places. So I said, 'Well, how about Student Government puts cans in every classroom?' And the fundraiser was a really big success."

According to Brenneke, the Red Cross conducted the "It's All About the Lincolns" campaign throughout the entire Fort Wayne area. Excluding Homestead's donation, they made approximately $2,400. Homestead, then, was able to collect and contribute a total of $2,100 to the other donations.

"I think the fact that there was a possibility of a pizza party really made everyone want to donate. I'm glad that our money went to such a worthy cause."

DAVID LIBBING (11)
Student in Winning Class

"Homestead almost matched exactly what they collected from the whole city of Fort Wayne," Brenneke said. "[The Red Cross] was very, very happy when we gave them their check. They were ecstatic."

Shawn Harkness' and Jim Lamping's fifth period classes led Homestead in donation totals with $9.08 and $9.20 donated per student, respectively. Lamping's class alone raised a total of $248.33, and Harkness' class followed not far behind with $245.25. These top two classes accounted for nearly 30 percent of the total money donated, and with such figured, the student government members consider the fundraiser a significant success.

"We got donations from almost all classes and the fundraiser turned out to be a success," Jim Finley (11) said. "It's great to see how much Homestead students care for the community."

According to the Red Cross's official website, the program has been "the nation's premier emergency response organization" since 1881, and "as part of a worldwide movement that offers neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war, the American Red Cross distinguishes itself by also aiding victims of devastating natural disasters. Over the years, the organization has expanded its services, always with the aim of preventing and relieving suffering."

Students, teachers and student government members alike were eager to see the success of the fundraiser.

"I thought the fundraiser turned out great," David Libbing (11) said. "Our class was really into it. I think the fact that there was a possibility of a pizza party really made everyone want to donate. I'm glad that our money went to such a worthy cause."

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

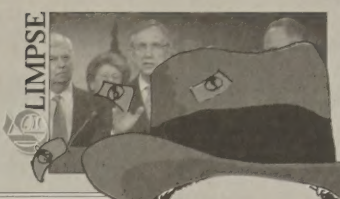
Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

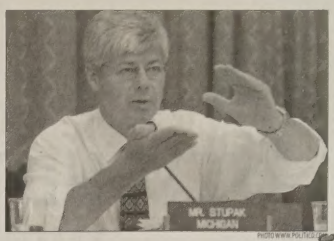
OPINION

GLIMPSE



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid revealed in mid-November that Democrats in the upper house have completed their version of health care reform legislation. While early debates among polarized lawmakers have centered on cuts in Medicare funding and access to free mammograms, the 2,074-page bill's most widely vexed aspect – a government-funded "public option" – has elicited fiery dialogue on the floor that will likely last through Christmas.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]



Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., discusses legislation earlier this year. Along with Republican Sen. Joseph Pitts of Pennsylvania, Stupak drafted an amendment to the Affordable Health Care for America Act bill that bans the use of government dollars to fund abortions not caused by rape or incest.

PHOTO WWW.POLITICO.COM

Health care debates once again stir abortion critics

Excluding hot topic from public forum is difficult task

By Stephanie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Abortion has been one of the most controversial subjects in politics for the last decade. While most political disputes often die out over time, the dispute over abortion is just beginning. Abortion is yet again at the forefront due to amendment reforms to health care which state that medical insurance will not cover abortion procedures through health care except in special cases that involve rape, incest, or danger to the mother's health. However, although the health care system will not cover abortions if the reforms are passed, abortions will continue to be legal. Furthermore, abortion coverage is neither prohibited nor required from health plans under the reforms, which leads to some uncertainty over what the end result could be – leaving both prolifers and prochoicers unhappy.

Abortion rights supporters argue that individuals should have a say on whether they should have elective abortion on their health care reform, but it is safe to say that a majority of abortion procedures are not even covered by their health care reform. According to the Guttmacher Institute's abortion funding studies in 2001, billing from health care companies involved less than 13 percent of all abortions. Since the government funds less than 13 percent of abortion procedures, it will hardly make an impact in the referendum. Government-run programs like Medicare must follow government law. However, private insurance companies do offer abortion coverage. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., the amendment's author, argues that the government has not been involved with the financing of abortion since the passing of the Hyde amendment.

Also, only 13 percent of women who have abortions do so with the help of their private health care, while the other 87 percent of women pay out of pocket. If the referendum passes, the same number of women will have to pay for their abortions, the number neither increasing nor decreasing. Most women who get abortions will still have to pay out of pocket money.

There should not be a huge controversy over the whole health care reform due to the amendment because it basically maintains the status quo. The only difference is that funds that are collected by states cannot be put to use for Medicare coverage for abortion, which is already the law. Even though abortion is a medical procedure, medical insurance should not be required to provide coverage. Of course, on the flip side, it should be noted that lack of funding can hurt poor women; by the time they gather enough money for the operation, the procedure will be more expensive and risky. Still, despite this socioeconomic bias, abortion is an optional procedure; thus, pregnancy is not a serious condition or disease that absolutely requires attention. Abortion is a personal decision. Therefore, insurance should not be obliged to provide coverage.

> "Pregnancy is not a serious condition or disease that absolutely requires attention. Abortion is a personal choice. Therefore, insurance companies should not be obliged to provide coverage."
>
> **STEPHANIE PONTON**
> *Writer*

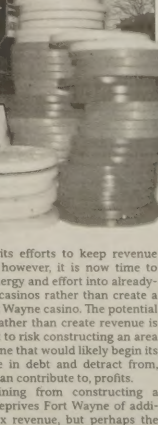
If a woman chooses to have an abortion procedure, she should come up with the $500 to $900 payment for the abortion for herself – not tax payers – especially since about half of the United States believes that abortions are immoral. It is not their responsibility to pay for something that is unnecessary and, in their view, unethical. However, women who become pregnant still reserve the right to decide whether to get an abortion or not. Because women who choose to get an abortion must pay without help of the government, they will contemplate their decision much more.

The Guttmacher Institute states that "twenty-two percent of pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion." Hopefully, we can see these percentages decrease over time to a minimal percentage. Millions of outsiders can point their fingers and claim that they know what is best, but the only person whose opinion truly matters is that of the woman who is carrying the unborn baby in her womb.

Legalization the war on drug's only white flag

THE HIGHS, THE LOWS

Marijuana use among 16- and 17-year-olds has fluctuated over the past nine years, according to results compiled from the National Survey on Drug and Health, which is annually administered by the Office of Applied Studies at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



SOURCE: WWW.OAS.SAMHSA.GOV

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

Prohibition was Al Capone's advantage in the black market, for prohibition was a flop – just as modern day prohibition is. And yet, despite overflowing prisons and gang-related crimes, there is a solution to be found with decriminalization.

The decriminalization of drugs might seem a contrary notion given the present environment, for the failing and flailing "war on drugs" that originated in the 1970s is still ongoing. Conventional values simply dismiss legalization – even President Obama, usually a pragmatic figure who considers all sides of an issue, waved the topic away with a simple "no" earlier this year.

Scare tactics exaggerate the ill effects of marijuana when the truth is this: If legalized, say, for individual users but not dealers, then the government alone will process drugs to assure more safety, tax the Hades out of it, focus more on reducing black-market violence and can still subject users to rehabilitation treatment. As for the naysayers – take a look at Portugal. This system works.

In 2001, Portugal made all drug possession for pure self-use legal–marijuana, heroin, cocaine, the whole caboodle. The World Drug Report 2009, a United Nations study, applauded Portugal's experiment, noting that "law enforcement should shift its focus from drug users to drug traffickers." And, indeed, the Cato Institute's research shows that drug usage in the country decreased, along with rates of HIV infections caused by tainted needles.

Senator Jim Webb, an expert on the need for prison reform, notes that while the U.S. has only five percent of the world's population, it has 25 percent of its inmates – 82 percent of whom are nonviolent offenders. The crackdown on drug users is the main culprit, for it was when the war on drugs began that this rate skyrocketed to where it is today, leading to great waste in a harsh, overcrowded system that leads to recidivism and hatred.

Webb is a fierce proponent of prison reform and has recently introduced the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009. If passed, the committee will take an in-depth looks at the state of the prison system and what can be done. And, moreover, its sixth duty would be to "Restructure the approach to criminalization of, and incarceration as the result of, the possession or use of illegal drugs, decreasing the demand for illicit drugs." Even though Webb has hinted that decriminalization will be an option, for "everything should be on the table," his plan is progressing smoothly and with much support. Webb's committee and its slow, thoughtful appraisal of the prison system could be the perfect vehicle to sneak in drug reform without public outcry.

Decriminalization isn't soft on crime, as law-and-order politicians might suggest. Truly violent offenders are still incarcerated while nonviolent offenders receive treatment, which is cheaper than jail and more effective in destroying drug habits. The possibility may seem unlikely now, but American mores are swiftly changing as marijuana is being legalized for medical use. It is high time for the unorthodox plans of today to become the tradition of tomorrow.

▸▸44

percent of Americans support the legalization of marijuana, according to an Oct. 4 Gallup poll.

CARTOON BY CELIA GRUNDMAN

The now-defunct Parnell Poker Palace on 4608 Parnell Ave. near Coliseum Blvd. was a legal gambling establishment because it held a charity gaming license and was operated by a not-for-profit organization.

NOT HERE, NOT NOW

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Gambling unwelcome in Summit City

By Kirsten Overdahl
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

The word "casino" brings several ideas to people's minds, including gambling, reservations, and tax profits, but recently, the word brings "threatened" to the minds of many Indiana residents. A month ago, Ohio residents voted for a ballot initiative that will allow for casinos in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. While the move benefits Ohio's state revenues, it hinders the profits created by Indiana casinos and thus places a damper on the efforts to create northeastern Indiana casinos.

Fort Wayne mayor Tom Henry has been a proponent of the addition of a casino to the Fort Wayne area, along with one in Steuben County. However, with the upcoming construction of casinos in four different Ohio areas, creating additional Indiana casinos is now detrimental rather than beneficial to Indiana revenues.

While adding a casino to the region could potentially create additional tax revenue, the Ohio movement creates too great a chance of casinos actually causing loss in revenue rather than increase. With the impending creation of new Ohio casinos on the horizon, a Fort Wayne casino's revenues could be expected to decline by 17 or 18 percent, according to the Journal Gazette. Existing casinos could take a hit as well; established casinos in the southeastern region of Indiana could potentially lose $94 million in annual revenue due to the Ohio competition, according to analyst Jim Landers.

> "... it is now time to invest energy and effort into already-existing casinos rather than create a new Fort Wayne casino."
>
> **KIRSTEN OVERDAHL**
> *Copy Editor*

Rather than let the threat of such a great revenue loss paralyze the state in its efforts to keep revenue sources, however, it is now time to invest energy and effort into already-existing casinos rather than create a new Fort Wayne casino. The potential to lose rather than create revenue is too great to risk constructing an area casino, one that would likely begin its existence in debt and detract from, rather than contribute to, profits.

Refraining from constructing a casino deprives Fort Wayne of additional tax revenue, but perhaps the best choice now is to look toward the city's already-established assets and examine how they can be used as tax revenue opportunities. Fort Wayne's nationally established reputation as a solidly family-friendly city has brought it acclaim and has encouraged families to relocate to Fort Wayne. Its role now should be to continue to foster its parks, zoo, new ballpark, building projects, and other areas of growth, and to not proceed with the construction of a casino that would not only damage Fort Wayne's reputation but hinder both local and state revenue opportunities.

Bennett's intrusion on December schedule avoidable, unnecessary

Ever since Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett deemed it necessary for schools to strictly meet the full 180 day standard for a school year (with those days required to be at least six hours each for high school), half days for finals are no longer a possibility. Next week, from Dec. 16 through 18, students can expect normal length final days for the first time.

Exams for periods two and six will be held on Wednesday, periods four and five on Thursday, and periods one, three and seven on Friday. Luckily, the days are arranged so that non-test taking periods will allow for test preparation for the next day–although most students would likely prefer to leave before noon and study at home. Lamentably, this is not an option. As for Friday, Advisory will be the hour long lunch period as antsy students await the ringing of the bell and the beginning of winter break.

The Ed Board
Patrick Svitek • psvitek@thespartana.net

Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

Since finals are scheduled directly prior to winter break, Homestead urges its students not to take off early. Nevertheless, many routinely do leave early for vacation, which will, no doubt, interfere with the system. On the plus side, students will not forget vital exam information over winter break as finals are so early. The schedule's odd configuration will continue to intrigue Homesteaders long after break is over, however, the first semester will continue for two weeks after break is over as teachers wrap up loose ends.

Bennett's routine-breaking changes are disagreeable, especially to students; Friday may be a full day, but it is unlikely that the lengthy Advisory time will add to student knowledge. Overall, the extra time brings little benefit to the student body.

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *The elimination of half days is just another abnormality of this year's awkward semester schedule.*

the facebook crawl

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "Who will reveal themselves as Tiger Woods' next mistress?"

Sarah Schmidt ▸ "Miley Cyrus."
Demri Braun ▸ "Me."
Emily Seward ▸ "Megan Fox."
James Noonan ▸ "Rihanna."
Jenny Spatt ▸ "Derek Luttrell."
Rafal Swiatkowski ▸ "Oprah."

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

Editors Adrienne Westenfeld and Molly Zweig are joined by guest writer Kate Colcord to award the best Christmas light displays. Broken into categories: the most timeless, most tasteful, most impressive (shown on left), most animated, and most ostentatious, the girls ransacked the city to find the perfect house for each award. Though some of the houses are well known attractions in Aboite, some of the houses are less known of.

{ LIFE@THESPARTANA.NET }

Christmas traditions restore holiday spirit

With November's unseasonably warm weather carried into early December and Thanksgiving passed by without the typical bitterness of a wintry day, the Black Friday sales seemed out of place without frost and snowflakes signaling Christmas' swift arrival. However, the recent plunge in temperature and promise of snow flurries assures me that it is indeed beginning to look a lot like Christmas. But even though the weather has begun cooperating, I still feel something important missing in the pre-Christmas hubbub–tradition.

It dawned on me this season that I have never done several things crucial to those who truly have Christmas spirit. While it is true that my family puts a tree up together each year, hangs stockings and buys presents, we never branch out further than the plastic conifer in our family room.

To remedy this, I decorated stockings, bought a box of Christmas cards, have plans to make a gingerbread house and hope to go caroling and pass out cookies. So far, my endeavors have been a blast, and I lament not having done these things sooner.

Invariably, age surely has led tradition to go to the wayside. How uncool it must be to go door-to-door with a bunch of friends from class and sing good tidings to strangers. And who chooses to decorate cookies over going to a party or a movie? The older we get, the more these things become a waste of time, but really, these things truly symbolize what holidays are all about–spending time showing others that you care about them.

Ten Items Or Less

By Hana Svetlovics
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Never am I more excited than when I receive a letter from someone in the mail. Sending out Christmas cards has enabled me to brighten the lives of dozens of people I care about. True, the cards are lacking in monetary significance, but the time I put in to writing a personal note in each one makes its value immeasurable. Going door-to-door and singing will definitely produce this same invaluable effect. Therefore, I only see time well spent and would not trade it for two hours watching a movie.

I encourage anyone who feels their holiday season lacking to try any of these activities and see if their season brightens. If temperatures do become unseasonably warm yet again, driving through town and looking at light displays is always a fun activity to partake in. Every year I take a trip down to Marion to go through their walkway of lights on the River Greenway.

Even if it proves difficult to get out and celebrate the season, staying in and watching classic holiday movies is comparable to a chilly walk after dark–and is more comfortable. An evening wrapped in a blanket with a cup of hot chocolate can be memorable if spent with loved ones. If after reading this, it is still hard to shake the Scrooge attitude, there is nothing wrong with creating your own traditions that fit your definition of time well spent. If family time makes your skin crawl but friends brighten your day, make plans to go ice skating or sledding. If this still is unappealing, make plans to add "Bah, humbug!" to your vernacular.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Beyond the Tree

Secular students address Christian holiday dispute

Ben Hazen (12) is Jewish and celebrates Hanukkah with his family but because his mom's family is Christian, he celebrates Christmas every year at his grandmother's house.

By Nicole Ivanovic
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

From the beginning of October to the end of the year, holiday rituals and celebrations dominate the life of religious groups around the world. For the Christians participating in the holidays, these times represent reunions of families and time spent relaxing, but for those not participating in Christmas festivities, the felicitations may seem discriminatory.

78.5% of the United States' population practices some denomination of Christianity, according to the CIA World Factbook, leaving sporadic instances of religious diversity.

Arguably the most commercialized holiday for Christians is Christmas, and preparations may begin as early as Halloween. The music, decorations and snow all combine to create a cozy yet controversial atmosphere for views on the extent of the celebration.

"The extremes that stores go to in preparation for the holidays is just a business thing, yet is kind of annoying since they start the day after Halloween to sell you stuff. The music has a nice feeling to it, but gets annoying with all of the Christmas themed stuff," Bassma Harajili (12) said.

Not only does the hustle and bustle of the season influence stores and shoppers, but it somehow worms its way into the academic environment, creating controversy over the familiar first amendment clause outlining the "separation of church and state." Staff members at school are seen with decorations in their rooms and often wish their students a "Merry Christmas" before the holiday break. Although these actions is done out of good will, they may be offensive to non-Christian students.

"The school and the staff are not enforcing Christianity upon students just by putting up decorations and by making remarks such as 'Merry Christmas,' so I do not believe that these actions create a conflict with the separation of church and state. If staff started professing and especially enforcing Christianity then there would be a problem," Lorander Saggu (10) said.

Although Homestead is predominantly attended by practicing Christians, effort is made to respect the beliefs of all religions.

"The majority of the school here has Christians in it, so it is just normal for the teachers to wish them a Merry Christmas, since they will be celebrating it," Nabia Khan (11) said.

Branching out from Christianity, there are also schools that recognize multiple holidays. This trend of recognizing the holidays that the majority of the student body may not celebrate is not uncommon among northwestern schools.

"Back at my old school in the Detroit area, there was a huge population of Muslims, so school would decorate for the holidays in the Muslim religions as well as the Christian, and we would even have days off for it," Harajili said.

Christmas, as it has evolved over the years, has progressed from remembering Bible stories to retail stores feasting in the "black" as their profits skyrocket during the time of praise and thanks. This commercialization creates a new idea as to the meaning of Christmas, and the flashy materialism may cause the traditions of old to lose their meaning and therefore lose their offensive nature in the process.

"Being born in America and in this generation," Harajili said, "I don't really see Christmas as a religious thing anymore."

> "Being born in America and in this generation, I don't really see Christmas as a religious thing anymore."
>
> **BASSMA HARAJILI (12)**
> *Muslim*

WINTER HOLIDAYS

HANUKKAH
December 11 to 19

CHRISTMAS
December 25

KWANZAA
December 26

Collections defy normalties

Childhood commonality takes new level

By Elana Merritt
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

During childhood, it's not at all uncommon to collect uncanny treasures like Pokémon cards. While collecting playbills and movie tickets as a full-fledged teenager is nothing out of the ordinary, some collections defy the conventional norm and stand alone as truly bizarre.

Jaspreet Kaur (10) is among those that collect odd items.

"I collect perfume inserts from magazines because they smell good and because it's unique. I've been taking them out of magazines for three or four years by now. It started when I noticed that there were some inserts around the house, and they smelled so good that I made a pile of them. I really like [the scent] J'Adore by Dior, and I keep a few colognes as well," Kaur said.

While collections may often seem aimless and self-indulgent, they often serve an unexpectedly beneficial purpose, as in the case of Kaur.

"It's fun to collect, and when you collect things you can become better organized because you have to keep your collection organized. It brings people together because there might be a common interest with a group of people or friends, too," Kaur said.

English teacher Kathy de Calonne shares a similar passion for collecting. With the first object in her collection obtained in 1985, de Calonne discovered her passion for wolves after reading the novel "Wolf-Woman."

"I collect wolves. I have everything from rugs, mats and pictures, and I have wolf sculptures; some of them are porcelain and some of them are glass. I also have blankets, videotapes, t-shirts and bookmarks," de Calonne said. "There is something about the wolf's face, like an intelligence or spirit that's there. When I look at the wolf it's almost like seeing a human face, and I just feel this connection with them."

> "Collecting things isn't just a hobby. It can help you remember all the places you have been and helps keep the memories of those places."
>
> **TIFFANY MUSSER (10)**
> *Collects Decorative Spoons*

When collecting things, de Calonne subscribes to one general rule: it's best to be selective about the item being collected and to ensure that the items truly have sentimental value, or else one finds him or herself saddled with a superfluity of useless junk. Her favorite item remains a photograph taken by Jim Brandenburg of a wolf peeking its head out from behind a tree.

There seems to be no shortage of interesting collections:

"I collect decorative spoons. My dad travels often, so when he goes to a new place, he brings back a different spoon for me. I also collect spoons from the places I'd like to visit and the places that I've personally traveled to," Tiffany Musser (10) said.

Collectors seem to have garnered a negative reputation of being deranged recluses whose only companions remain their treasures. However, many fail to recognize that collections can provide anything from aesthetic pleasure to personal satisfaction.

"Collecting things isn't just a hobby," Musser said. "It can help you remember all the places you have been and helps keep the memories of those places."

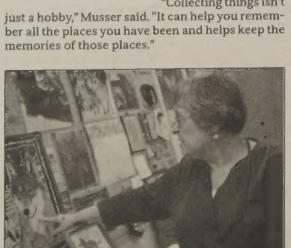


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

English teacher Kathy de Calonne shares of various wolf items. She received this blanket from a previous student.

Bringing a legend to life

Board's Head Festival celebrates 35th year

By Lexi Yanez
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Fort Wayne is home to numerous eclectic seasonal festivities, but none are as consistently timeless and well-known as Boar's Head. Members of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ are wrapped up in hectic preparations for the 35th annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festivals, which were first showcased in December 1975. The festivities are a family-friendly diversion from holiday preparations that tell two stories: one being the titular boar and the other being the all-too familiar nativity story. The reproduction of the nativity scene related by the Bible follows the Boar's Head pageant.

"I am the court jester for only the last night, generally. Nobody in the cast really has lines; the audience helps the cast with the story. It's very interactive," Jim Schmidt, U.S. History teacher, said. "My job is to make other people laugh. I haven't been involved the full thirty-five years [of Boar's Head], but some people have been. I became involved when my daughters started getting involved. At first I was just a participant, but I later became the director."

The original festival began in medieval Britain in the 14th century. The boar was a vicious beast, and some considered it an earthly manifestation of Lucifer himself. When a boar was slain on the hunt, it was perceived as cause for celebration. The boar's head would be given to the lord of the manor. Lords, ladies and even peasants were invited to attend the celebration of the boar's death.

The cast of the modern day production encompasses over 250 members, including 200 performers and 50 choir members. The festival is intergenerational, as cast members range in age from a mere six months to nigh upon 80 years. Last year, the festival drew over 112,000 audience members collectively throughout its multiple performances.

"My role in the performance is the lights director. I have always loved the technical side of theater, and the challenge and responsibility of the job is the aspect I enjoy the most," Paige Yarman (11), a member of Plymouth Church, said. "You could say that the show wouldn't go on without me, as the lights are part of what make the show so spectacular; they set the mood and emphasize the story being told."

"I am a court dancer and an angel. I start off dancing for the king in the first story, but then in the second story I am an angel," Tess Anglin (11) said.

Tickets are free but required to enter for each performance. They may be attained at the Plymouth Congregational Church office on 501 West Berry Street beginning Dec. 17, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If a person wishes to assist in sponsoring the festival, he or she may be able to become a patron for a fee. The show is performed six times from Dec. 27 to Dec. 29.

"Boar's Head is a great holiday family event," Yarman said. "There is so much to catch your interest and so much to get involved with. In one part of the show, guests are invited to stand up and dance with a Lord or Lady. It provides a very entertaining interpretation of Jesus' birth and can be enjoyed by all ages."

BOAR'S HEAD

Where: 501 West Berry St.
When: December 27, 28, 29
Time: 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. each evening
Admission: Tickets are free, call the church office at 423-9424 to order.

Social studies teacher Jim Schmidt is a member of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. After years of volunteering for the festival, Schmidt has been the director the past few years.

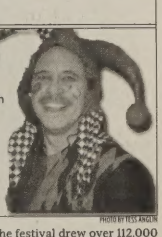


PHOTO BY TESS ANGLIN

Fiction lures readers to confidence in fate

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

I am not a believer in fate. I believe that there is always a choice presented to us, and that humans chart the course of their own lives. However, as exemplified by Gabriel Garcia Marquez' One Hundred Years of Solitude, fate is certainly a romantic idea despite its state of being entirely fictitious.

Though I've longed to live in fictitious locales such as Middle Earth and Pemberley, I cannot imagine being a resident of Macondo. Inhabited by the sprawling and prolific Buendia clan, it may well be a paradise of summer heat, but like its populace, Macondo is condemned to a permanent, unbreakable cycle of circular narration. Characters often bear the same intricate array of names and personalities as though they cannot thoroughly shake their ancestors, and the quixotic rural town is continually torn apart by repetitious catastrophes. It is truly the epitome of the colloquialism, "history repeats itself."

Time in Macondo is not finite and progressive, but rather moves forward in the same undeviating cycle, so dizzying that the town's inhabitants can scarcely recognize their past any more than they can predict their future. At the beginning of the novel, the traveling gypsies seem to know its end as clearly as day, and seemingly immortal characters such as Ursula and Jose Arcadio Buendia serve as testaments to the difficulty of establishing an individualistic future when one cannot escape the past.

What's more, the citizens of Macondo seem content to live in a time loop like something from a convoluted episode of Lost. As the prophecies of the town's first inhabitants (translated by the last Buendia) reveal, all has been predicted: Macondo has merely fulfilled a preordained cycle of repetitive tragedy and infinite beauty, one forgotten as the town is dashed from existence and erased from memory.

> "Seemingly immortal characters such as Ursula and Jose Arcadio Buendia serve as testaments to the difficulty of establishing an individualistic future when one cannot escape the past."
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Life Editor*

In Macondo, the lines of reality tend to blend with the supernatural in what Marquez does best- incredibly visceral magical realism. His prose is earthy and sensual, the lives of Macondo's residents juxtaposed between the bloody horror of war and the resurgence of deceased Buendias wandering about the house conversationally, both as natural as breathing. No character perishes of natural causes, and some watch the town evolve for over four generations, but with infinite skill that only a magical realist can possess, Marquez weaves the ordinary with the astonishing as though things such as immortality and ghosts are merely commonplace.

As an avid reader and writer, it is only fit that I find the role of language to be the most captivating element of Macondo. Language is woven into undecipherable prophecies by Melquiades, relentlessly translated by numerous Buendias who yearn to know the fate of Macondo, and evolved over one hundred years from non-existence into blossoming fruition. While it is language that ultimately kills Macondo in the translation of the prophecy, it is language that saves Macondo from one hundred years of solitude, just as it is the saving grace and the greatest accomplishment of humanity.

It's beginning to look like a lot Christmas

Holiday lights brighten up area in various ways

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD, KATE COLCORD AND MOLLY ZWEIG

most impressive

The owners of this infamously iconic house in Emerald Lake recreate the culinary delight of a well-made gingerbread house, completed by a festive holiday greeting from Santa and his reindeer compatriots. Painstakingly decorated with unerring consistency year after year, the residents of this house must be diligent workers with good attention to detail and unbridled holiday enthusiasm.

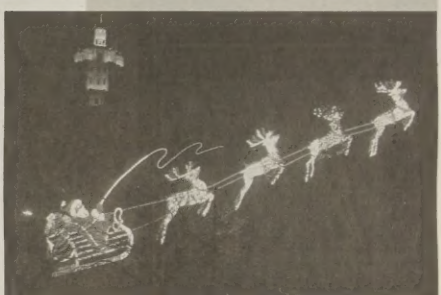
most animated

This eclectic residence on Homestead Road features a variety of animated displays including a gargantuan smiley face, cheerfully dancing flowers, and an illuminated nativity scene. The holiday décor illuminates an otherwise eerily dark stretch of road and encompasses a seemingly infinite number of year-round themes. Its residents clearly share innumerable interests and love the holidays in that they begin their display far before the vast majority of holiday revelers begin their annual preparations.

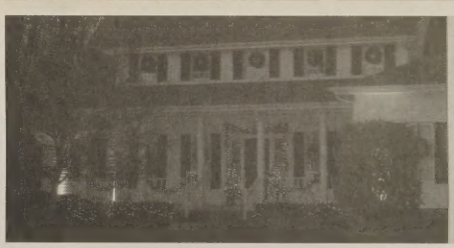
most ostentatious

The yard of this residence on Electric Avenue is chockablock with a seemingly unrelated hodgepodge of Christmas paraphernalia, including a Peanuts-themed nativity scene, an enormous inflatable snowman and a scale train set. The residents of this house evidently have varied tastes and feel the need to represent the entirety of these tastes in their holiday display; it is also clear that they are experts in navigating the post-Christmas holiday landscaping clearance sales. This residence is home to unused Christmas decorations when they go to die.

most timeless



The iconic display of Santa and his reindeer is a panorama not unfamiliar to many Fort Wayne residents; located on Main Street in the shadow of the Lincoln Tower, it has been a mainstay of downtown Fort Wayne iconography for over the past fifty years. With an animated whip that encourages his reindeer forward, Santa lights the way to Coney Island for numerous famished patrons of the downtown nightlife.



This house embedded in Chestnut Hills foregoes the tacky, instantly gratifying décor of lesser exterior designers and instead employs classic holiday staples in a tasteful and simple manner. This enchanting colonial home features subtle white light displays without the excessive kitsch of flashier homes, and the wreaths embody a classic Christmas spirit that even Ebenezer Scrooge would be helpless not to appreciate. The residents of this charming dwelling must have a classy Christmas tree, a spotless kitchen, porcelain china and warm Christmases by their roaring hearth.

most tasteful

PHOTOS BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

Local theater performances showcase students, teachers

BY RACHEL SHINN
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

"Lights, camera, action!"

These common words are well known to any film actor, but what words of advice are dispensed to the oft-overlooked denizens of plays and musicals? There's always the tongue-in-cheek "break a leg," or the tried-and-true "good luck," but to the hardworking and little known high school actors showcasing their talents in community theater, these phrases are just part of the job.

Though Homestead offers a wide variety of activities in the theater department, ranging from theater arts to technical theater, many students choose to participate in community theater events and shows taking place throughout the year across Fort Wayne. Community theater involvement isn't unheard of within the drama department, as many students at Homestead choose to broaden their horizons by participating in both school shows and shows at local and community theaters, including the Civic Theater, the First Presbyterian Theatre and the Youth Theater. In addition to their performances in both school and community venues, many of these students also participate in extra and co-curricular activities such as Drama Club and show choir.

"I prefer to perform in community theater over school theater because it's more perfected. You meet people from all over the city and get to work with them," Lindsay Carden (10) said. "Getting to work with directors such as Brad Beauchamp and Harvey Cocks is amazing."

Carden has performed in multiple shows, including "Annie Jr." and Homestead's own "Anything Goes." She plans on auditioning for "High School Musical 3" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" in the spring as soon as the show choir season comes to a close.

"I think there's more of an advantage in performing in community theater over school theater because you get the best from everyone, not just the best from your school," Darby Bixler (9) said.

In addition to performing in the school's show choir, Bixler has performed in "Grease," "Annie Jr." and "High School Musical 2" at the Youth Theater. She is also performing in "The Nutcracker" with the Fort Wayne Ballet.

"It's appealing to high school students because of all the new people they meet when doing a show. It exposes students to different stages and different directors, choreographers, stage managers, etc.," Choral Director Curtis Shaw said.

Mr. Shaw, also a performer himself, is directing "Father of the Bride" at the Arena Dinner Theater next summer. He has also performed in "Don't Dress for Dinner," "The World Goes Round," and as Judas in "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Staging multiple shows of all persuasions, Homestead's theater department is well known and attracts a variety of students. While community theater may have its perks, in-school theater opportunities are often encouraged in favor of community theater participation.

"I encourage students to experience as much of the arts as possible. While I wouldn't tell them to audition for a community theater show instead of a school show, I would encourage them to try and do both types," Shaw said. "If there's opportunity to participate in both types, it's a good experience to work with different directors and in different spaces."

PHOTO COURTESY CURTIS SHAW

Top: Shaw performs as a pirate in the production "Pirates of Penzance" before he began teaching choir and show choir. Bottom: For Big: The Musical, the Shaws, Nicole Miller (11) and Emma Beauchamp (9) all work in rehearsal with their cast members to learn the choreography.

PHOTO COURTESY LINDSEY CARDEN

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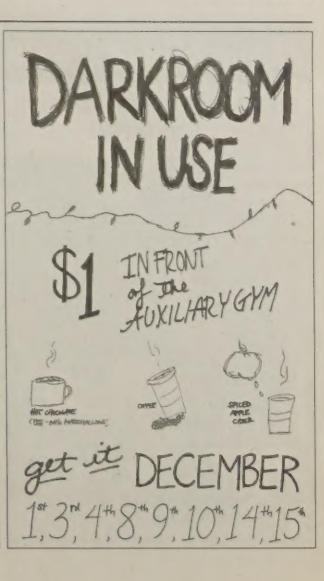


SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

The wrestling team continued their state run with a match against NHC rival Norwell last Tuesday. The team won the match 98-15. The team is lead by co-captains Andy Franklin (12) and Tucker Smith (12). With coach Randy Pursley, the team is always growing mentally and physically. Tomorrow, the Spartans have a four-way meet with Carroll, Columbia City and New Haven. The meet is at Carroll High School, and is always competitive for all teams present.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Amount of varsity cheerleaders decreases as season progresses

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Demri Braun, one of three senior cheerleaders this year, energizes the crowd at a pep rally in 2008.

By Andy Franklin
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

"Homestead, Homestead battle cry!"
"V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!"

This exchange can be heard at almost every home basketball game, lead by the Spartan cheerleading squad. Throughout pop culture, cheerleaders are viewed as being at the top of the food chain in terms of popularity. Girls often look to join the cheerleading team in order to climb the social ladder. However, at Homestead, there remain only three seniors on the winter varsity cheerleading squad, and only ten members total.

Why are there so few winter cheerleaders as opposed to fall cheerleaders? There were 18 members on the varsity team during football season in the fall, compared to the ten on the winter squad. Seven members of the winter squad were also members of the fall squad, meaning that 11 members of the fall team decided not to participate during basketball season in the winter. There are various reasons for this drop in participation.

While some may believe that cheerleaders' only job is to stand in front of the student section and lead cheers at football and basketball games, there is an entirely different aspect of cheerleading that few witness. Cheerleaders also attend competitions, in which they are judged on the quality of routines that they have practiced for hours on end.

"I decided only to do fall cheerleading because there are only competitions during the fall, and that is what I'm primarily interested in," Katie Wight (11) said.

Others are not able to participate in winter cheerleading because of conflicts with other sports. Most students, like Cara Pepperman (11), who only cheerleads in the fall because she participates in gymnastics during the winter, are unable to balance the responsibilities of two different sports during the same season.

Still other girls decide not to cheerlead in the winter for personal reasons.

"I decided not to cheerlead in the winter because it's my senior year, and after competition season was over I had just had enough of it and wanted to relax," Hayley Brawley (12) said.

Despite the testimonials of girls who have decided not to participate in winter cheerleading, the devoted girls who make up the ten member squad believe cheering on the basketball players is a rewarding experience.

▶▶3
seniors belong to the winter team cheer squad.

"Winter cheerleading keeps me in shape and ready for the upcoming fall season," Corey Caldwell (11) said.

However, winter cheerleading isn't only for preparing for the fall season:

"It's my senior year; I've always supported the guys and girls in my class and I've always been a cheerleader, so I wanted to finish it out [by cheering during the winter.] I do it because I enjoy cheerleading a lot," Demri Braun (12) said.

All of the hard work the winter cheerleaders do does not go unnoticed; their presence is an integral part of boys' and girls' varsity basketball games.

"Having the cheerleaders at our home games is helpful because they, along with the crowd, provide us with a spark," Dustin Durnell (12), basketball player, said.

BETTER SKATE THAN NEVER

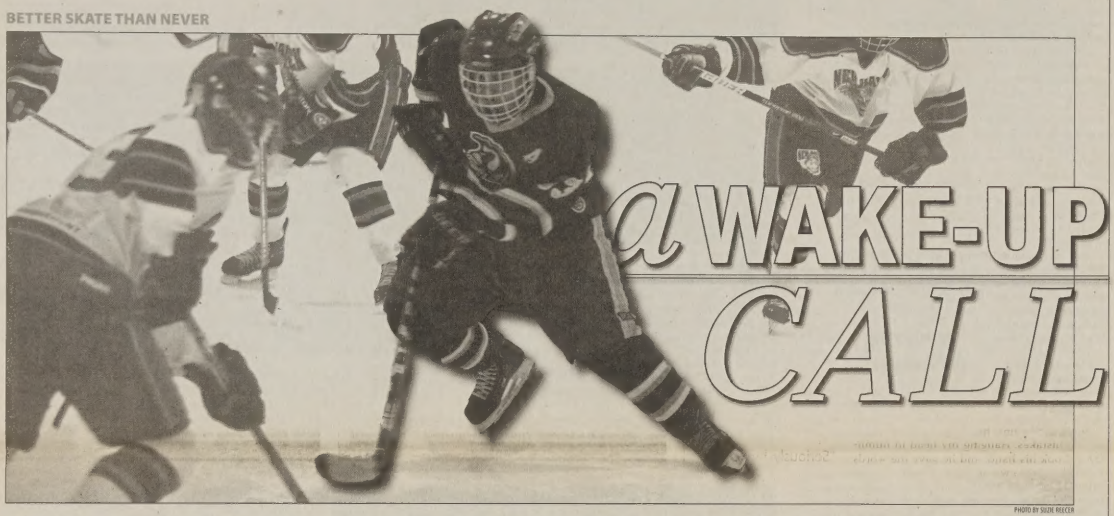


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

a WAKE-UP CALL

Hockey team loses first game of season after being named 'Team of the Week'

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Just like any great team attempting to say on top, hard work and success go hand in hand. The same is no different for the Homestead hockey team this season, as the team remains undefeated through their league games and has just a single loss in their Indiana Crossover games.

The team has been on a tear since the first puck drop in mid October, with just one loss in just over two months and an 11-1-1 overall record. Such a start has turned heads of local media, something fairly uncommon to Fort Wayne area high school hockey. Wane-TV named the team "Wane's Team of the Week", a title normally given to just high school varsity teams, for the week of November 17.

"I thought it was pretty cool that we were recognized by them considering there are still a lot of people at Homestead who still don't know we have a hockey team," goaltender Nick Rahn (11) said.

On top of local team of the week honors, the team has turned heads at the state level. Since the state rankings have featured every Indiana high school team, Homestead has remained ranked fifth best in the state according to myhockeyrankings.com, a BCS style ranking system.

Heading into this season, beating city champion Carroll was on the top of the to-do list. The team has done just that in their two contests against Carroll, beating them by four in both meetings.

"It feels really good returning the favor after how they had beaten on us for the last three years," defenseman Kevin Kelley (12) said.

Much of the team's success has been contributed to the depth of the forwards on the team. While the team has a great one-two punch in their first and second lines, the third and fourth lines have also provided grit as well as goals.

> "That's a game we should have won, but we really came unprepared and it showed in that first period. To our credit we did play really well in the second and third period, but we just couldn't pull it off."
>
> **NICK RAHN (11)**
> *Goalie*

Heading into the season, a large question mark for Homestead would be the play of their goaltenders, especially their first year starter Nick Rahn. Rahn, who was a backup to Jon Lain ('09) in his first two years on the team, has been one of the strong suits for the team and been another key to the team's hot start. Rahn currently leads all starting goaltenders in the Fort Wayne are with a goal against average of 2.00.

"At the beginning of the year we just kind of hoped for the best but now that we are two months into the season we all know we can rely on Rahn," Kelley said. "As a defenseman who has worked side-by-side with him this year he has really matured in his game to be the starter we needed."

The team's only loss came in a crossover game, a game played against an Indiana high school team not from the Fort Wayne area league. After winning their first two crossover games against Crown Point and Lawrence in the middle of November, the team lost their third crossover game against twelfth ranked Noblesville. Homestead, who came out flat, fell into a deep hole after allowing four unanswered goals in the first period. The team was able to rally back after finding the net twice in the second period and again early in the third, but was not able to bury the game tying goal in the final seconds. After Noblesville's empty net goal, Homestead would go on to lose 5-3.

"That's a game we should have won, but we really came unprepared and it showed in that first period," Rahn said. "To our credit we did play really well in the second and third period, but we just couldn't pull it off."

While the team is no longer undefeated overall, the team looks to carry over their undefeated streak in league games to the second half of the season and make a surge for their second league crown in three years.

"It is going to take a lot hard work both on and off the ice for our team to remain unbeaten," Kelley said. "We know it is possible, and for the juniors and seniors that were on the championship team two years ago, it is a feeling we really want to accomplish."

Girls' basketball team improves as season continues

By Connor O'Hara
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

For every high school basketball team across the entire country, there is always one game where the players walk onto the court with one simple question on their mind: how are we ever going to manage to get a win when we're playing this team? For the Homestead girls' basketball team, many of the players had this question on their mind, but they didn't let that stop them from taking a dominating win of previously ranked #13 in the nation, Elmhurst.

The Lady Spartans' are certainly not short on talent this year, especially with Emily Bley (9) starting on the varsity team. Bley is the only freshman girl to start varsity this year, and it seems clear that Bley will become one of their top players as she continues to play throughout high school. Jena Hamrick (11) is also one of the Lady Spartan's star players. For almost all the games this season Hamrick has been one of the top scorers for Homestead's girls basketball team, along with Kendra Dyson (12) also putting on a show each game in her final season with Homestead.

The Lady Spartans took an early lead, and kept it there as they won over Elmhurst 69-58. Elmhurst has long been since considered a breeding ground for exceptional girls basketball players, many of the girls on the team are planning on playing college basketball, with one of the girls has already having signed with Purdue, and another with Wisconsin. No matter how much people hyped up Elmhurst, the greatest achievement was by the girls' team, who never let that hype enter their heads as they stepped onto the court and did what was necessary, and rode the bus home with another victory.

The Lady Spartans went on to win their next two games against Huntington North (54-51), and Fort Wayne North (59-33).

"Huntington North was good, they had a point guard who was about 6'2", and challenged our defense," Rachel Herbert (10) said.

The team's first loss came on December 5, at an away game at Norwell. The Spartans started off well, but the Norwell Knights came out with a win. The Spartans' lost 55-52 to the Knights, and the loss certainly put a damper on what many would have guessed to be an easy victory for the Spartans.

"Losing to Norwell really hurt our momentum that we had built all season. That being said, we are always looking ahead. We are focusing on our next game, not the previous one." Whitney Neal (11) said.

Hamrick and Bley came out with the top scores of the game. Bley scored 16 and Hamrick score 13 against the Knights, but it was tragically not enough for the Spartans to experience a come from behind victory. The Spartans, however, did put a good fight to make their loss less substantial. The Lady Spartans rallied from a being down 45-30 at the end of the third quarter to make the game within a three point shot for a chance at overtime.

The Lady Spartans currently hold a record of 5-1, and are projected to be a tough game for anyone in the NHC conference. Their next game is on December 11th at home against the New Haven Bulldogs, be sure to be at the game to catch the game, as the Lady Spartans continue to improve each game they play.

PHOTO BY BEN MINESELL

Rod Parker talks to the squad during a timeout at the Bishop Dwenger game.

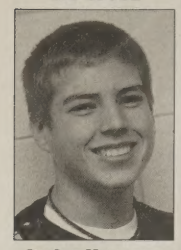
Table tennis dreams crushed by middle-aged racquet disciples

It's called table-tennis, not ping-pong. And after last Thursday night, I realized why this group of athletes is so offended when their sport is called such a childish name. A sport that has been dominated by teenagers in man caves throughout the world has now been taken to the next level by the Three Rivers Table Tennis Club (TRTTC). After a night of playing with what seemed like the Fort Wayne gods of table tennis, I caught a glimpse of what playing table tennis truly was. No, its not a casual game that is played in the lowest part of someone's house, but rather an elite sport with the most physically fit athletes of the greater Fort Wayne area.

Okay, I was exaggerating, it was more like a church full of only men, all of whom were overweight, and almost half of them had already passed their mid-life crisis. But nevertheless, looking like a "total nub" with my standard Dick's Sporting Goods racquet (not paddle), I was ready to test the inner Asian inside of me play some official TRTTC table tennis.

The club was started nearly 12 years ago by table tennis fanatic Tom Dannenfelser. Along with a small group of men, he was able to begin the legacy that is the TRTTC. With his own funding, and along with private donations, they were able to raise enough money to purchase 10 table tenis courts. They are currently, and have always been located at Messiah Lutheran Church and meet anywhere between six to eight times a month. The first Tuesday of each month, nearly 40 men gather to play a small league tournament, with the winner only getting bragging rights. Coincidentally, I showed up December 2, the first Tuesday of the month. Of course, it would only be my luck to show up the one night of the month where I could get my "you-know-what" handed to me.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

Shortly after arriving and taking a seat by the nearest table, I quickly turned around, bumping into a man in his 50s. I said, "sorry", and didn't receive a verbal response from him, but rather a cold look from a man who had played too much table tennis. That night, he sported short black shorts, a skin-tight blue mesh polo shirt, and headband. I knew I had finally arrived.

The tournament format was laid out in a round-robin style. I was placed in the "C" bracket because it was my first time there. Suprisingly, the higher bracket, "B", was halfway filled with men over 70, all of whom were amazingly talented. Seeing guys this old move so quickly and swiftly might be the eighth wonder of the world. In the "A" bracket, bringing my expectations and stereotypes to reality, were two Chinese men, who both spoke Chinese to each other. Words cannot describe the phenomenom that was watching the two of them play.

After checking my brackets, I saw my first match was against someone named Derek. Derek appeared to be in his mid-30s, and his playing style seemed closer to mine than anyone else's. He gave his friends a few "lucky me, I got matched up against a kid" smirks before we started playing, making me slightly nervous.

I was given the first serve, and after my first hit, my TRTTC career finally began. I won the first game, he ended up dominating me in the second, I came back to win the third, he barely won the fourth and also ended up winning the fifth game barely, by only two points. His smirk had faded and turned into something more of an astonished look. We shook hands and laughed about how good the game was.

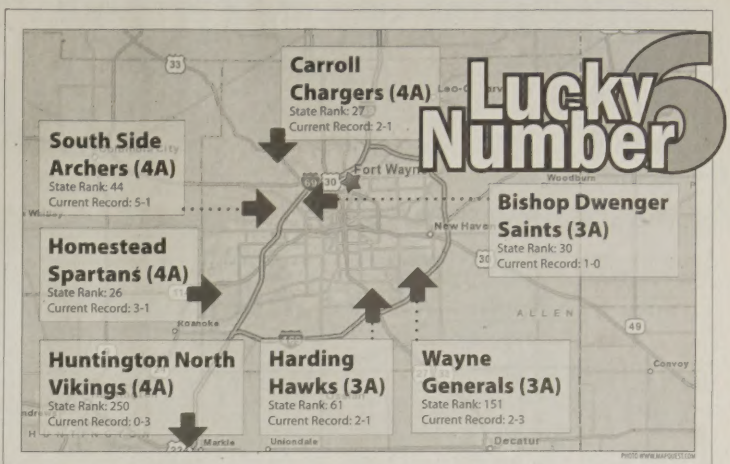
My next match was set to be against John. John was over six feet tall, and by looking at the size of him, he could easily have played as a college football lineman. His serve made him look like a preying mantis, and his movements were that of a rocking chair. As he towered over me while I stood across the table, I said a little prayer, only hoping that the match would be over soon. Well it was over soon, very soon; the entire match only took a grand total of about four minutes. Each point was painful, and by the end of the second game, I stopped keeping score. I won a total of eight whopping points against him, nearly all of them were points he had given me because of his mistakes. Hanging my head in humility, I shook his hand, and he gave me words of wisdom that I would forget in less than ten minutes.

> "Seriously, how often do you get to see men older than your own grandpa move faster than you do? And after fulfilling my previously conjured dream of seeing Chinese men playing amazing table tennis, I'd say that the night was a success."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

After the beatdown from the last match, I was pretty sure that I was going to lose again. If you haven't noticed, I'm not exactly an optimist. Next up, I was scheduled to play the man I had warmed up against, Jeff. He was in about his mid-40s, early-50s, and sported an Indianapolis Colts jersey, matching the stereotype of many Fort Wayne citizens. He told me of his 13-year-old table tennis protégé Blaise, shortly followed by beating me in another three quick games. As Jeff began lobbing the ball in the air, I realized that he was letting me win points; it dawned on me that my table tennis skills were pitifully awful.

At this point, I was ready for the night to be over, but I stuck it out, and played my last match against someone named Derick. I'm still not sure how it happened, but I'd broken a sweat after only playing for 45 minutes. After smelling the alcohol on Derick, I figured that playing someone who was possibly intoxicated would raise my chances of winning... I was wrong. Surprise, I lost again in three games. I don't think I need to comment on what the score was.

Even though I was completely dominated by everyone that I played over the entire two hours that I spent at the TRTTC, I can honestly say that I had a good time. Seriously, how often do you get to see men older than your own grandpa move faster than you do? And after fulfilling my previously conjured dream of seeing Chinese men playing amazing table tennis, I'd say that the night was a success. As soon as you turn 40 and have a free schedule on Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons, the TRTTC is a viable option for anyone looking to get their table tennis dreams smashed in the Fort Wayne area. Just take the advice from me... ex-table tennis player Joe Hanauer.



Basketball team starts season with their six most challenging games

BY MAX ISROFF
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

The boy's varsity basketball schedule starts off this year with six games against five of the toughest opponents the team will face throughout the entire season. Among games at Huntington North, Wayne, South Side, Bishop Dwenger and Carroll and one game at home against Harding, the Spartans will play their hardest competitors early in the season.

"The first six games are the toughest stretch of games that we have played since the 90's, when all area schools were better than they are now," Assistant Coach Don "Doc" Lines said.

The difficult schedule is the result of scheduling conflicts that athletic director Joe Updegrove must navigate before each season. Basketball games are often scheduled a year in advance and must be worked out so that they do not interfere with girl's basketball games, wrestling meets and other events held at the school. In addition, most games must rotate between the two team's home venues, causing even more scheduling problems. All of this must be taken into consideration before hiring the referees, workers and custodial staff that must be contacted and hired to work each game.

> "We definitely hope to get through the first six games without a loss. Getting those wins would really help the team's momentum for the rest of the season."
>
> **DREW SERY (11)**
> *Varsity Shooting Guard*

"The cards kind of just fell this way (in the scheduling of the first six games). As the years go by and we schedule games four years ahead of time, I am not able to look into the future and find out who is going to be good. It used to be that Huntington North had an extremely competitive team, but over the past few years they have become less competitive," Updegrove said. "The opposite also happens, where we schedule teams and as years go by they become better and better. It's really just a coincidence that the first six games are as hard as they are. We certainly didn't schedule them as such."

"We definitely hope to get through the first six games without a loss," Drew Sery (11) said. "Getting those wins would really help the team's momentum for the rest of the season."

Of the first six games, four of them are played against SAC teams, which are usually tougher than the opponents Homestead plays in the NHC. City schools play a faster, more up-tempo game, a style this year's Spartans also play, compared to the slower, more set style of the rest of the NHC schools.

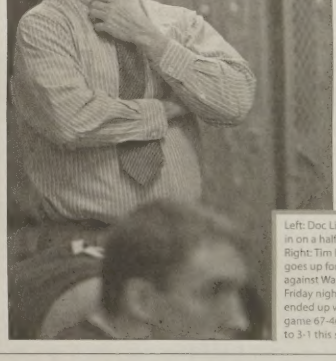
"Scheduling contracts are written and signed in four year increments. The contract sets down the dates, time and venues that the games will be played in. We also have to take into consideration officials, who are scheduled two years ahead of time, workers and security for every game," Updegrove said. "It isn't as simple as just as calling the other team and deciding to play on a certain day; it is a lot more complicated than most would think."

Not everyone is complaining about the tough schedule.

"Playing the city schools all at once is kind of nice, especially at the beginning of the season. That way we can prepare to defend the faster paced game and use that game plan for multiple games in a row," Lines said.

At the same time, however, Lines does acknowledge that he wishes the games were spread out a little more.

"That being said, having the games spread out makes sure the guys don't fall asleep halfway through the season and keeps us going," he said.



Left: Doc Lines listens in on a halftime speech. Right: Tim Dunn (12) goes up for a shot against Wayne last Friday night. The team ended up winning the game 67-46, improving to 3-1 this season.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REESER

Swimming coach Englehart continues dedication after award

After reaching the state finals last season, the boys' varsity swim team is looking to return to glory after the season started last Monday against East Noble. The team easily won their first meet of the season by a widespread margin. Leading the pack with a combined total of 80 points (including relays) were Shane Talley (10) and Gabe Jacobson (10), who provided the final blow to beat the Knights. Head coach Chad Englehart recently won the Indiana Club Coach of the Year Award, and now tells us what has helped him and the team become the well-known swimming powerhouse that Homestead is known as today.

Spartana: Who is projected to be Homestead's toughest competition this season?

Englehart: We will compete against eight of the state's top ten teams, including the state's first, second and third-ranked teams. So picking just one team is pretty tough to do. Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern, Chesterton and Munster are the big names.

Spartana: What will be the biggest visible difference for this season as compared to last season?

Englehart: Much, much smaller and less experienced senior class. Last year we had 17 seniors, and nine of them had already participated in the state championship meet as underclassmen. This year I only have six seniors total, and only two of them have ever participated in the state championships.

Spartana: How have you changed and developed as a coach from the beginning of your career to now?

Englehart: I think I am more patient and a little less reactive then I used to be. But I am still extremely passionate about these kids, their development and this sport. This is not always a positive characteristic, but it has always been a consistent with me.

Spartana: What makes the Homestead swimming teams different from other swim teams?

Englehart: When compared to other area schools, we spend a significantly larger amount of time in practice. Most of our top swimmers at Homestead spend 18-22 hours a week training more than 40 weeks a year. This type of commitment is very common around Indianapolis and in Northwest Indiana with state powers like Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern, Munster and Chesterton, but is significantly more than high schools in this area.

Spartana: How have you changed and developed as a coach from the beginning of your career to now?

Englehart: I think I am more patient and a little less reactive then I used to be. But I am still extremely passionate about these kids, their development and this sport. This is not always a positive characteristic, but it has always been a consistent one with me.

Spartana: How has the SWAC swim program been helping the Homestead team grow?

Englehart: Homestead swimming provides a ton of excitement, recognition, publicity and rewards for the swimmers. SWAC however, is the true life blood of the swimmers' successes at Homestead. The greatest high school swimmers and swim programs are connected closely with top club programs. You have to work 11 months a year to be truly successful at this sport, and without a great club team we would slip into mediocrity. Along with the increased training, SWAC also offers expanded competitive opportunities. This past month, SWAC took 11 current and future Homestead swimmers to the National Grand Prix meet at the University of Minnesota. Our swimmers actually sat on deck right next to members of the USA Swimming National Team. Without SWAC, our Homestead swimmers would not have been on deck and in the water with Olympic Gold medalists like Rebecca Soni and Ryan Lochte.

Spartana: How long has the team been training this season?

Englehart: The goal is to never really stop training. We take a little break around Spring Break and a two to three week break in August, but we try to be in the water 11 months a year. Life as a top-level swimmer is like walking up a downward-running escalator. Every time you stop working you go backwards. So I stress the need to continually work towards athletic and mental improvement.

Spartana: What is the team's outlook for the rest of the season after competing in the first meet?

Englehart: We are very young and inexperienced this year, so we are struggling to advance our leadership and training expectations. I think the kids are starting to understand what I am asking them to do and what they might be able to become. We swim a ton of big time teams in the month of December, so I'll know a lot more about this team after Christmas Break. My hope is that we have a team that is willing to fight to uphold the high standards those before them have established.

Spartana: How long have you been coach the guys' and the girls' team, do you feel like it helps to coach both of them, and how many assistant coaches help you?

Englehart: I have been coaching them together for 8 years. I think it is extremely helpful and rewarding to have the teams working together. This year I am extremely blessed with a large, wonderful staff. I have 2 paid assistants and 3 volunteer coaches on the Homestead staff. I believe Head coaches are only as good as their assistants. I actually have 15 assistant coaches when you combine the SWAC Swim Team and the Homestead staffs. It is these 15 assistants that truly make Homestead swim great.

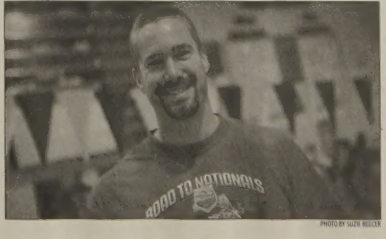


PHOTO BY SUZIE REESER

Chad Englehart has been coaching with Homestead for the past 13 years, and is the only coach at Homestead to coach the boy's and girl's team of the same sport. Last year, he won the Indiana Club Coach of the Year Award. The team won its first meet of the season over the East Noble Knights on Dec. 1. While the team lacks in the number of seniors they have this year, the team has plenty of experience, making them a state contender.

FEATURE

PHOTO BY BEN MORESELL

the GLIMPSE

An idea that began at the state dance competition last year became a reality on Saturday, November 21 when 19 members of the varsity dance team chopped of their hair. Although the haircuts will contribute to a new dance routine, the hair was donated to the non-profit organization Locks of Love. The girls' donated hair will provide hairpieces to children financially disadvantaged under the age of 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

[FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET]

PHOTOS BY BEN MORESELL

CHOP LOCKS AND DROP IT

Varsity dance takes team bonding to new level cutting hair for Locks of Love together

By Derek Luttrell
Executive Editor • dluttrell@thespartana.net

A Day Away Salon and Spa was filled with some rather unfamiliar faces on Saturday, November 21, as 19 Varsity Dance Team members anxiously waited to sacrifice their golden, chocolate, butterscotch and cinnamon locks to those with needs far greater than their own.

"Ever since state last year, Coach Leah [Stupeck] wanted to choreograph a routine that would allow the dancers to let their hair down, and she also thought that a universal look would unify the team as a whole," Rachel Rifkin (12) said.

While the group haircut may in fact unite and enhance camaraderie amongst the team, its significance skims a surface much deeper than that of aesthetics and convenience.

"I had a Wilm's tumor on my left kidney when I was five years old," Clarissa Root (12) said. "I had [my kidney] removed, underwent two blood transfusions, ten rounds of radiation and six months of chemotherapy, which made me go completely bald."

Having a team member with a history of cancer and losing her hair, Stupeck decided to find a better use of the mass quantity of golden locks than mere padding for a homeless person's daily nap in the dumpster.

"I've asked every team I have coached for the past five years to cut their hair together, and these girls have been the only ones actually willing to do it," Stupeck said. "Once I realized how long most of the girls' hair actually was, I decided we should absolutely donate it to Locks of Love."

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization whose mission, according its website, is "to return a sense of self, confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss by utilizing donated ponytails to provide the highest quality hair prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children."

After some minor persuasion and reassurance of otherwise reluctant dance folk, team morale after the haircuts was higher than the salon's estrogen level.

"I won't lie, I was a little hesitant about cutting my hair this short at first," Jenna Banas (12) said. "But after realizing the cause we were supporting and how good everyone looked, I am very happy with the decision."

The new team jubilation was bubbling not only amongst the various dancing divas, but such good-natured temperament has spread through the hearts of the general public as well.

"I had never had seen these girls more excited than the day of the haircut," Stupeck said. "Not only has it given the choreography a new flow, but it has united this team and brought it closer than ever."

Rifkin, who had the longest hair out of anyone on the dance team before the haircuts, donated a staggering 14 inches of hair that otherwise hadn't seen a salon chair for over two years.

"Although it may seem it would be, it wasn't difficult for me to accept such a drastic change," Rifkin said. "My hair will grow back, so it is nice to know I am giving it to someone who needs it a lot more than I do."

> "[The haircut] has united this team and brought it closer than ever."
>
> **LEAH STUPECK**
> *Varsity Dance Team Coach*

Expanding the morning's good feelings, the team continued to elevate morale with a day well-spent with various team-bonding activities. The day included a group lunch, a viewing of "Sleeping Beauty" with varsity dance team member Samantha Sirois (12) at the Scottish Rite, a pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving dinner and, finally, a sleep-over at the Rifkins' humble abode.

"On the following Monday morning, we all ate an early breakfast at Bob Evan's, and then made a dramatic appearance together at school to show off our new look," Root said.

As they have come together like nearly no team has done before, the Varsity Dance team has single-handedly depicted the true definitions of companionship, congeniality and amiability.

"It meant a lot to be able to give back to girls who are going through what I went through as a child," Root said. "Inspiring my 18 dance team members to do the same has been an extremely moving experience."

Molly Quinn (11) chopped off her hair with the dance team on Nov. 21 to donate to Locks of Love.

1. After her ponytail is cut off, Jenna Banas' (12) hair is highlighted and trimmed. 2. Laura Aleman (12) receives a hug after her haircut is complete. 3. Courtney Burton (12) and Rachel Rifkin (12) give teammate Sydney Brown (12) support as her hair is cut. Rifkin's hair was the longest to begin with out of all of the other dance team member's lengths. 4. Madison Eshelman's (11) ponytail is cut off and ready for donation. In order to donate hair to Locks of Love, it must be at least 10 inches long. Hair lengths less than 10 inches are sold in the form of wigs. Top: Camile Hunter (11) joins members of the varsity dance team at A Day Away Salon and Spa at 487 East Dupont Road.

BY THE TEETH

3 hours was the total time for which the team had booked the entire salon.

5 wigs were donated to Locks of Love with the hair that was cut.

6 stylists were designated to cut the hair of 19 dance team members.

10 inches was the cutoff length of hair that could be donated. Hair less than 10 inches is sold.

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
French instructor Gregory Fryzel announced that he will be retiring in June after 31 years of teaching at Homestead. 2A

LIFE
Students in quest of the elusive New Year's Resolution are realizing that reforming their ways make take a little extra push. 5A

THE NEXT 65
The absence of school's drudgery on Martin Luther King Jr. Day presents opportunities to celebrate the civil rights leader. 8A

OPINION
Executive Editor Derek Luttrell shares his own version of the previously released list of Words to Leave Behind in 2009. 3A

SPORTS
The politics behind athletic invitationals are often overlooked by the hundreds of students and parents who attend them. 6A

ONLINE
The Spartana's official website is under construction as its layout is rearranged. The site is expected to launch again in January.

www.thespartana.net | A 2009 NSPA Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Track and cross country coach Ian Wilson clears the snow off his windshield after more than three inches blanketed Aboite Township last week.

Slippery routes remain drivers' source of delay

Students' minor crashes spark snow-day debates

BY DAN VANDEVEER
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

It's that time of year again when students anxiously await the forecasts that make the possibility of a delay or closing seem likely. However, the snow and ice that come with the winter months makes driving more dangerous, and students must adjust their driving to avoid collisions. Accidents become more frequent during December and January and sometimes serve as a wake-up call to amateur drivers who underestimate the hazards of driving in snow.

"I was turning and then, all of a sudden, I wasn't turning anymore. I was just sliding."

CHRISTIAN CLARK (11)
Teen Driver

"I was driving home in the morning after finishing a workout at the YMCA," Carolyn Bell (11) said. "The weather conditions were bad and I was going through the 's-curves' on Liberty Mills Road. I hit an ice patch while turning and lost control of my car. As the car was flying off the road, I noticed that I was coming close to going over a hill into a creek. So, I aimed at hitting a tree to stop me from flipping into a lake."

Many crashes that occur in the winter months are very serious with the possibility of long-term damage to one's body. Recently,

SEE 'WINTRY MIX,' PAGE 2A

CHILLING SPREE

In the days preceding Winter Break, temperatures dipped as low as the teens before more than three inches of snowfall during the next week.

Date	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.
Dec. 14	51 °F	34 °F
Dec. 15	39 °F	20 °F
Dec. 16	28 °F	13 °F
Dec. 17	37 °F	17 °F
Dec. 18	37 °F	32 °F

SOURCE WWW.WUNDERGROUND.COM

(087) DAYS OF BUMMER

Editors: First semester filled with petty worries, fiascoes

The first semester of the school year brought plenty of petty worries and trepidations to scurrying soccer moms and over-stressed AP scholars alike. Let us not forget about our fretting that President Barack Obama was attempting to brainwash the minds of our young generation in early September through what turned out to be an innocent, educational and generally uplifting speech. A scare that hit closer to home was Homestead's infamous flash drive virus, which kept the most diligent of students from playing self-downloaded Pokemon games and listening to illegally acquired music. Although it may have given us all a valiant excuse to give our teachers for not completing daily homework assignments, the flash drive virus turned out to be the swine flu of the technological world – which brings us to our next, and most overblown and obsessed-over, freak-out of the latter half of 2009. Swine flu swept the nation like an adolescent Internet singing sensation, with spastic pundits and their supporting media outlets serving as the new YouTube. Further obfuscating the illness' legitimacy was over-reactive clinic-visitors who eventually concluded that being victimized by "Swine Oh Nine" was about as hip and trendy as . The list goes on – humiliating auto collisions in depths of snow that barely brushed shoelaces, students delivered suspension sentences for photographing teachers and a gradual crackdown on Internet filtering that backhanded the folks in Mountain View, Calif. That's Google for all you lurking censors at the CMT Center (Don't worry – we're still trying to figure out how the world's most expansive search engine benefits education, too.)

Yes, we had a lot to be jittery about during this first semester. But so did the remainder of a frantic nation gradually inching toward the edge of its creaking seats. On a national scale, the seemingly endless period of 18 weeks was book-ended by a frothing-at-the-mouth health care reform schism in August and the reemergence of bitterly accusatory terror politics in December. Somewhere in between, a publicly intoxicated Chicago emcee was going to let you finish, a exotically dressed pop star wanted to take a ride on, um, your motorcycle and a prepubescent crooner wanted you to let him inside your world.

We're ready for second semester, too. – *Derek Luttrell and Patrick Svitek*

Key sources weigh in on semester's events

▶ RICK SMITH, principal, on President Obama's message to schoolchildren:
"I had heard that what eventually played was different than what was initially to come out. In the final version that eventually aired, there was less controversy. That's what I recall. The comment what I heard was that most of what was said was likely to be things that we would be saying to students and want students to do anyway. It wasn't anything egregious."

▶ JENNIFER BAY, assistant principal, on doubts regarding the drug testing's randomness:
"Drug testing is random. A lot of students that have signed up for the random drug testing program have the same chance of their number being called up. All student drivers and co-curricular participants are required to sign up for the drug-testing program."

▶ LAURA JOHNSON, computer specialist, on containing the flash drive virus:
"One of the things that made it hard for us to track it down was that, after we had told people not to use them until we got the computers fixed up or reimaged, and students used them anyway, and it'd start all over again. And teachers didn't know too, really what the protocol was and so that made it more difficult."

▶ BRIAN DOBIAS, guidance counselor, on moving to the Freshmen Academy:
"Being at the Freshmen Academy has been a really good experience for me, it's kind of a switch coming over from working with upperclassmen, but it's good to work with freshmen now, knowing where they're headed."

▶ ASHLEY MERUANI, student government executive board vice president, on the success of Homecoming week:
"Student Government was happy with the way things worked out for Homecoming this year. We enjoyed the Sea of Blue theme. As with all of our events, we have things we'd like to improve on, and things that we already have."

▶ JENNIFER BAY, assistant principal, on advisory's promise:
"I think it was successful. We've had students come back and say that it helped them in their lives. I don't think the success of this type of program can be based on whether more than 50 percent like it."

▶ SCOTT HILL, National Honors Society adviser, on a record-breaking induction class:
"A lot of these are kids who are intrinsically motivated and they're not just after the grades — they're trying to become well-rounded. They take their academics seriously, and they think it matters to who they are. It's part of their identity."

▶ CONNIE MEREDITH, study hall supervisor, on being photographed by a student for a Facebook fan group:
"I am so over it, and so is the school. But, that being said, I was touched by the comments and the only reason it was ever a problem was the negative comments."

▶ JIM COPLEN, SACS business manager, on the school board's budget approval:
"The budget plan [presented in 2009] has yet to be approved by the state…The state is planning to reduce the budget for 2010. We're still in the process of…addressing this shortfall. This year, we're thinking that there'll be a $1.7 million cut in the budget, so we need to readdress our expenditures."

▶ BETH QUIGLEY, school nurse, on the spread of swine flu:
"It's being downplayed right now, with people saying that it's all gone and over now, but the virus is still on. So what we need to do be aware of now is that the virus is probably being controlled because a lot of people have gotten their vaccinations, and because of their vaccinations they're not getting the flu. That doesn't mean the virus is gone; it's going to be back the next year and the year after, and so on."

CARTOON BY CELIA GRUNEMAN

BRIEFS

VIRTUAL TEAM CHALLENGE RESULTS
Two teams composed of four Homestead students each recently placed in the top 100 finishers of Virtual Team Challenge, a business simulation game launched by New York-based BrandGames. The "Pretty Ponies" — containing juniors Stephanie Wine, Taylor Stock, Amanda Stevenson and Cody Tyler — captured the 43rd spot, while "Alpha Humanity" — comprised of juniors Josh Chapman, Robert Young, Brian Shrawder and Kyle Kingdon — finished in 62nd place. The program allowed participants to hold positions at a fictional organization and address a hypothetical oil spill using critical thinking and problem-solving techniques.

EIGHTH GRADE OPEN HOUSE
The Ninth Grade Academy staff will be hosting an open house for the parents of incoming on Jan. 26. Attendees will be able to discuss extracurricular opportunities, course selections and general inquiries with representatives from various departments.

GRADUATION PREPARATION
The deadline to physically submit cap-and-gown order forms was Thursday during lunch. Seniors who still need to purchase their outfits should immediately contact Homestead's Jostens representative, Greg Muncy, at 260-483-1825.

DECA advances more than 60 competitors to state contest in Indianapolis next month

Trip to Snider for district event results in accolades for department head's students

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

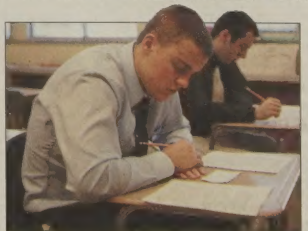


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Seniors Evan Pyle and Kyle Bush prepare for their role play performance in the business law and ethics category. Contest participants are usually allowed a half an hour to prepare for their respective competitions.

86
percent of DECA students who competed earned spots at state.

Snider High School awaited 79 Homestead business students the morning of Saturday, Jan. 9, for the district DECA competition. DECA is a co-curricular business competition for high school students who are enrolled in a marketing class to test their knowledge and problem-solving skills by applying business and marketing skills to real life situations. Each student has a business area of specialty and competes against others in their event.

Seven other schools competed against Homestead on Saturday, and the competition was steep. The top eight students in each event at districts qualified to progress to the Indiana State DECA competition in Indianapolis later this school year. At the district competition on Saturday, 68 Homestead students qualified to progress to the state level.

SEE 'DECA,' PAGE 2A

Fryzel sits at his desk in room 611 near the foreign languages hallway. After 31 years of teaching, he will be retiring at the end of this semester, leaving behind French courses full of students who praise his sense of humor and claim to doubt that "anyone couldn't like his class."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

"There have been a lot of positive feelings and a lot of laughter over the years with my students. My students over the years have been really exceptionally kind and good to me and every day is kind of crazy. I'm leaving Homestead at a time where I feel that I'm happy. I'm fulfilled."

GREGORY FRYZEL
Head of Foreign Languages Department

Fryzel 'fulfilled' as retirement nears

Department head hopes to return as substitute teacher, pursue culinary arts

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Gregory Fryzel, Homestead's upper-level French teacher, recently announced his plans to retire at the end of the school year after 31 years of teaching.

Fryzel's warm heart and sense of humor have helped to create bonds with students throughout the years, and many students view Fryzel as a friend as well as a teacher.

"I have loved my experience at Homestead, and even though I'm looking forward to my retirement, I'm going to miss my students a lot because over the years I've made a lot of good friends and many of my students come back to me," Fryzel said. "Over the holidays we meet and have coffee and dinner or something, and we talk about the days we were together and how much it has meant to them to be in my class. And I'm able to tell them how much it meant to me to have them as my students."

After graduating from high school, Fryzel attended Michigan State University for one year, where he took his first French course. After 10 years, Fryzel went back to MSU to get his bachelor's degree and decided to major in French. Eventually, Fryzel began teaching French in schools and has spent the past 20 years teaching at Homestead.

Because of his interesting perspective and ability to relate to students, many fond memories have been created in Fryzel's classroom.

"I really did not know what to think when I first met Mr. Fryzel. He's not like any teacher I've had before, but I ended up loving his class," said Shelby Cook (10). "His willingness to relate to each student is the characteristic I will miss the most."

Fryzel's sense of humor is a well-known characteristic among his students and adds to the experience in his classroom. Fryzel often jokes with students, writes funny things he has heard in the hallway on the board or tells amusing anecdotes from his past to lighten his students' day.

"I like how he makes sure everyone understands before he moves on," said Adrian Farley (11). "I will definitely miss his sense of humor. He is the funniest adult I've ever met; he always makes me laugh. I don't know how anyone couldn't like his class."

Fryzel's warm character extends to his relationship with his colleagues, who also say that they will miss him dearly.

"I have known Mr. Fryzel as long as he has been here. I'm going to miss his advice, especially when I have a French language, history, food, culture, or geography question," English teacher Steve Clough said. "Believe it or not, these things come up pretty frequently in class. I'll email him a note and within a few minutes it comes back to me, and he has the answer that I need. Plus, he's been on two of my trips to Britain with some of my students. He's just been an extremely nice, wise, warm, wonderful friend."

In addition to teaching, Fryzel has also served as a pastry chef, a registrar, a harpsichord maker and a monk. In his lifetime he has cooked for Pat Boone, the Smothers Brothers, Bill Cosby, and Helen Reddy. Because cooking is one of his main hobbies, Fryzel hopes to work with food in some capacity after retiring.

"I'm thinking I could maybe be a prep chef in one of the restaurants here in town or I thought of applying at DeBrands and working in their kitchen and making chocolates," said Fryzel. "And I would still like to teach a bit if I could, so perhaps I would substitute here at Homestead if I got the chance."

Although Fryzel has enjoyed and appreciated his years at Homestead, he looks forward to retirement.

"There have been a lot of positive feelings and a lot of laughter over the years with my students," said Fryzel. "My students over the years have been really exceptionally kind and good to me and every day is kind of crazy. There comes a time in everyone's life when he or she knows it's time for a change. I'm leaving Homestead at a time where I feel like I'm happy. I'm fulfilled."

A MAN OF ONE WORD(S): FRYZEL IN THE VIEWS OF HIS STUDENTS

affable. — Anna Orlow ('09)
romantic. — Artinder Nanrha ('09)
magnanimous. — Molly Smith (12)
passionate. — Courtney Blosser (12)
knowledgeable. — Ryan Cordes (12)
experienced. — Kelley Hadsell (12)

Freshman recognized for aiding injured U.S. troops

Alison Mansfield honored as Hoosier Hero for contributions to volunteer operation overseas

By Stephanie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Alison Mansfield (9) was awarded the "Hoosier Hero" honor on Jan. 9 by the Indiana Pacers and Veolia Water for her profound volunteer work in Operation U.S. Troops and Operation Socks for the U.S. troops. The founder of both programs, Mansfield has collected over 40,000 items for soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and for soldiers who are injured and recovering. The Pacers and Veolia Water honor an Indiana citizen who has made a significant contribution and an inspiring impact on the lives of others.

Mansfield received her award graciously and with humility.

"Personally, I'm not really too fond of the whole award concept," Mansfield (9) said. "It actually makes me somewhat uncomfortable. I definitely didn't start this project with hopes of being recognized. However, I recognize awards and publicity are important to my project because they help bring attention to the needs of the soldiers."

Though she is more focused on the success of the project than on receiving awards, Mansfield recognizes that her award can benefit her organizations.

"The more people that know about the project, the more people will get involved," Mansfield said. "For this reason, I am grateful to all of the teachers and members of the community who have nominated me for awards because of the amazing project response I have received as a result."

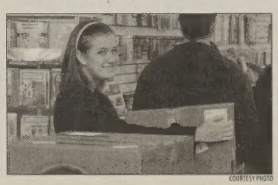
Mansfield is both the founder and an active participant of Operation U.S. troops and Operation Socks. The programs collect warm wool socks, snacks and toiletries for the soldiers as well as small toys to give to the Afghan children as gestures of goodwill. Through various fundraisers, the program has raised enough money to pay for the overseas shipping costs.

Mansfield's work is recognized both by her peers and by her teachers.

"Alison has demonstrated that a student can develop her own service project and can use her own initiative and creativity to find many new ways to involve others," Latin teacher Kathy Adair said. "Her self-motivation, leadership, and perseverance are the three characteristics which might well be emulated by other students."

In addition to the "Hoosier Hero" award, Mansfield has won several other awards including the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, The Power of Children: Making a Difference Award, and the DAR State and Regional-Level Community Service Award. Each award was presented to her for her volunteer work and accomplishments.

"Other students can learn that if they work hard, their efforts will be recognized," Katherine Troutman (9) said. "Also, students can learn that it is so important to help out your community, whether it be a small project or a big project like Alison is doing. I'm really proud of her, because she has put a lot of time and effort into helping the soldiers. She really does deserve this award."



COURTESY PHOTO

Alison Mansfield (9) waits in line at the post office to mail her care packages. In honor of her volunteer work, she was named a "Hoosier Hero" earlier this month.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: AP classes will have weighted grades next year.
Status: Maybe. Rumors have sprung up that AP classes will be weighted starting next year. While nothing is concrete yet, a committee has been formed to reexamine the issue. Weighted grades in these rigorous courses would encourage more students to partake, guidance counselor Amy Hamilton said.

"It's in the infancy stages," she added. "I can't tell you the time frame, but it's got more meat this time around than the last time." – *Carrie Cummiskey*

Seniors tempt deadlines as they bid college applications farewell

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Although college-bound students are advised to start the college application process during the summer before senior year, many seniors wait until a few weeks, a few days, or a few hours before the deadline to submit their applications. Like homework procrastination, the process of filling college applications is left untouched until the final hour.

College applications are stress-inducing by themselves, but that stress mounts when a student procrastinates. Students often use this stress as a motivator to finish their college applications.

"I have less time [from procrastinating], but the stress keeps me focused," Samantha Pennington (12) said.

Some college applications can be finished in a day, while others may take weeks. Different parts of the application can be more time-consuming than others.

"The application itself wasn't bad, but the essay took time, [because] essays show who you are," George Chen (12) said.

Although students may procrastinate with their applications, missing deadlines is uncommon.

Diane Rice, a guidance counselor, said that she "hasn't seen a lot of [missed deadlines] this year" and that students generally turn in their applications on time.

"If a student is serious, they [will meet deadlines.] If not, they won't," Rice said.

Procrastinators also often forget to consider the time necessary to gather letters of recommendation, which can take several weeks depending on the teacher writing the letter.

Although some liberal arts schools are more flexible with deadlines, the majority of Ivy League and state universities are less forgiving. However, though schools are strict with application deadlines, they often allow students to submit national test results, such as SAT and ACT scores, after the admissions deadline, since the test results often are not released until after the deadline.

Colleges make deadline information very clear to students on their school websites. Many colleges have bold lettering on their websites stating that Jan. 1, 2010 is the deadline for final postmarks and electronic submissions.

Students may choose to send their college applications either online or on paper. Most universities recommend that students submit their applications online because the submission is instant. If a student chooses to apply on paper, the student must consider the time it takes for the application to be mailed to the college. Some colleges accept applications that are received after the deadline as long as they are postmarked before the deadline.

"If you apply through mail, you worry about mail time. If you apply online on January 1st, sometimes the website crashes," Chen said.

The application process can affect components of a student's senior year that procrastinators may not pause to consider. Because most procrastinators finish their college applications during the second semester right before the deadline, they must handle the stress of homework, extracurricular activities and final exams as well as their applications.

"Just finish [the application], because it really puts stress on you," Pennington said.

Certain in-state universities, however, are more generous with their deadlines as winter gives way to spring. Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., considers all applications submitted through April 1.

▸▸DECA CONTINUED FROM 1A

"We did really well and almost everyone qualified to move to the state level," business teacher and DECA advisor Brian McNeal said. "I would say this was another wonderful year. The numbers were great and participation was wonderful."

The format of the DECA competition was simple and organized. Upon arrival at Snider, each student was taken into a room based on their event to complete a 100-question test. After the test, students were given a role play scenario that required them to utilize their marketing skills and business savvy to give a presentation to judges based on a topic they had received earlier that day.

"I took the test and then we did the role play," James Bovine (11) said. "After that we just hung out and had pizza until awards when like every Homestead kid got called on stage to go to state except a few."

Students, however, cannot simply show up and expect a trip to state, according to McNeal. Prior to the district competition, students contributed laborious hours to the preparations required for DECA in order to place well.

"We run study sessions in December as well as taking a marketing foundations class helps to know the terminology," McNeal said.

Work aside, DECA is also a way for students to get involved, become proactive in their learning, and meet new people that they might not normally have come across in such a large school.

"It's actually really fun," Teresa Busse (11) said. "It's cool because you're with a lot of kids you don't normally hang out with a lot, but you actually get to know them a lot through DECA. At state it's like an overnight thing so you get to spend more time with them and I think it's really fun."

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

▸▸WINTRY MIX CONTINUED FROM 1A

on a morning when many students thought Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) should have had a delay, the driver of a P.T. Cruiser applied the break. Due to the ice on the road, though, the car was not able to stop and skidded into the back of a school bus. No major injuries occurred, but four students were taken to the hospital to be treated for minor injuries.

Not all accidents that occur are life-threatening and often are just serious enough to make the driver double-check his or her speed and brake early. Many accidents occur in neighborhoods and often involve sliding into trees, mailboxes, poles or stop signs.

"I was turning and then, all of a sudden, I wasn't turning anymore, I was just sliding," Christian Clark (11) said. "Luckily, I just hit a stop sign and was only going ten miles an hour."

Collisions or accidents can be avoided easily – it simply takes time and experience for new drivers to figure out how to adapt to winter weather. If a driver reduces speed from 45 miles per hour to a slower speed such as 30 miles per hour in snowy conditions, the driver will likely decrease the risk of an accident.

Students have many different ideas on how to avoid wrecks in the winter months. "Drivers in general just need to be cautious when turning and give themselves extra time to brake, since you can't always spot ice," Jacob Fehlhaber (11) said.

"People drive to get to their job, but as a bus driver, driving is my job. So what I have to realize is that other people's total focus and concentration isn't on how they're driving. It's on where they're driving to."

JOHN BLEVINS
SACS Bus Driver

Bus drivers, who are responsible for the safety of a large group of students, also need to take precautions when driving. In many cases, the careless driving of others on the road proves more detrimental than the driving of the bus driver.

"People drive to get to their job, but as a bus driver, driving is my job," SACS bus driver John Blevins said. "So what I have to realize is that other people's total focus and concentration isn't on how they're driving. It's on where they're driving to."

One benefit of snow that is thoroughly popular with the student body is the possibility of a snow day. Students rejoice at the sight of falling snow or ice, hoping to have a day off. However, snow days must be accounted for and made up. SACS has a few snow make-up days in effect which, as the name indicates, the school uses as a buffer in case extra days are necessary to account for missed days of school. If the snow day occurs within a one-week period of the make-up day, the next built-in day is used. One upcoming day is Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day, which will officially be a day off for students. Make-up days, though, are frequently utilized – this year is the first year that SACS has been able to take MLK Day off since the 2004-2005 school year.

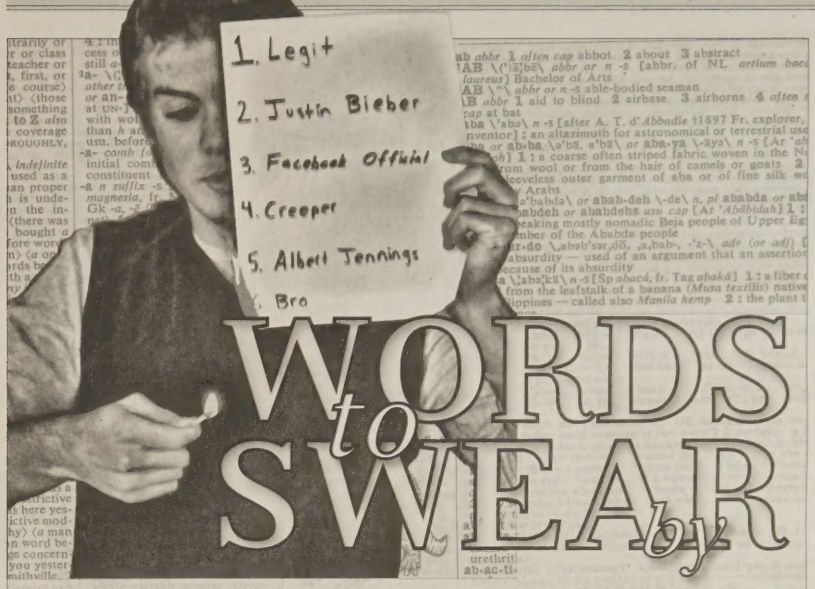
Snow can be bittersweet due to its chances of causing damage through crashes and collisions, but it also provides the pure feeling of joy that happens when one turns on the television and sees the famous words: "Southwest Allen County: Closed."

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

The familiar sight of admission offices' promotional materials strewn on the kitchen counter will soon become a rarity for college-bound seniors. Instead, applicants will be obsessively anticipating the arrival of a different article of mail – the type of envelope that outfits a letter of acceptance or rejection. Excluding schools that issue decisions through rolling admissions, such as Indiana University, decisions are typically released at the beginning of April.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]



WORDS to SWEAR by

Executive editor details phrases to press the backspace key on in 2010

By Derek Luttrell
Executive Editor • dluttrell@thespartana.net

All right, Homestead. With a new year comes new opportunities to pollute the English language. Unfortunately, though, by leaving the decade behind, we are also forced to rid ourselves of the most tacky and overused pieces of our vocabulary. So, in light of Lake Superior State University's annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Mis-use, Over-use and General Uselessness, here are six pieces of hallway vernacular to leave behind in 2009.

▸ **Legit.** Just because you're having trouble spelling all of a four-syllable word doesn't make it okay to just stop halfway. What was once considered a sophisticated piece of vocabulary is now a common conversational piece at the everyday barbecue picnic: "This corn on the cob is so legit, man." Laziness is to blame here – but just take some time to think about it and try to sound it out, and it'll all be okay.

▸ **Justin Bieber.** I'm not even sure where to start with this reverse jail bait. No, Justin, you are in no position to sing about the prom. No, Justin, you are not nearly ethnically or vertically inclined enough to be referring to a person as a "shawty." And is it pure coincidence that you are not taller than a single one of your love interests in your music videos? I think not. So let's keep J-Biebs in 2009 and think about bringing him back once he is eligible for admission into a theme park.

▸ **Facebook Official.** Thank you, my fellow generation, for not respecting, accepting or acknowledging a young couple's sensitive relationship until it is advertised for all to see on Facebook. Maybe they're craving the thrill of not having their parents know. Maybe they aren't comfortable with where they are as a couple yet. Hell, maybe they don't even want you to know. Live your own life, kids, and go solicit your premature puppy love on your own time.

▸ **Creeper.** Labeling someone else as a creeper merely provides one with a false sense of popularity. Stop judging that misplaced kid in the background of your profile picture – you know, the one making obscene gestures with his hands and mouth with that "Please put this on Facebook" expression on his face. He was just in the wrong (or right, depending on the popularity of the subjects in the photo) place at the wrong time. You would have done the same thing.

▸ **Albert Jennings.** Sure, we all love the guy. But seriously, now; he's a cool 1,000 miles away and yet he still somehow seems to run this school. How does he do it, you ask? It is simply the burden of being Albert Jennings. A message to all pro-Al Twittercentric fiends: If this were Colonial America, he'd be Great Britain and you'd be Rhode Island. Declare your independence already. How many Lil' Wayne-quoting aficionados are going to rediscover puberty when they receive Jennings's "Coming back to the Fort, baby" text before we realize we've taken this fetish too far?

▸ **Bro.** Any hopes of a clever conjugation of the infamous "bro" are dead and gone, so let's give it a rest. Listen, broseph, brosephine, President Bro- Tempore, bromosexual, broski, brofessor, bromosapien, brotato, brohawk and members of a bromance; you were all fun while you lasted. That's what she said.

THE SOURCE

The following are entries on Lake State Superior University's 2010 List of Banished Words 2010:

- Shovel-ready
- Transparent or transparency
- Czar
- Tweet
- App
- Friend (as a verb)
- Teachable moment
- "In these economic times..."
- Stimulus
- Too big to fail
- Toxic assets
- Shovel-ready

SOURCE: WWW.LSSU.EDU

Euthanasia outcry triggered by ruling

Doctor-assisted suicide unfairly branded as murder by objectors

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

In its recent legalization of doctor-assisted active euthanasia, Montana has joined the despairingly small coalition of three states (the others are Oregon and Washington) to allow such a procedure. Americans are guaranteed a constitutional right to determine the course of their own lives; why should they not be given the reciprocal right to a dignified death?

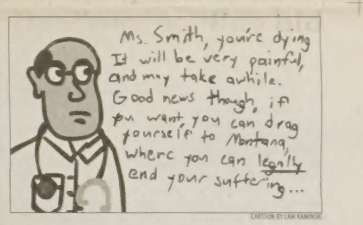
As evidenced by their abortion and euthanasia stances, conservatives seem to hold a stubbornly narrow-minded belief that one's body is a public rather than a private vessel. What gives any citizen, let alone the self-righteous do-gooders that lobby against euthanasia, the right to control something as intimately personal as the body of another? The circumstance of euthanasia does not necessitate interference from nosy uninvolved parties, but rather a private decision that can and should only be made by the patient in question.

In physician-assisted suicide, a doctor does not murder a patient; the physician merely provides the necessary materials for the patient to end his or her own life in a dignified and humane manner. A patient that is too incapacitated to commit suicide should not be forced to suffer unbearable pain.

"Pain and sickness transcend species."
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor

Many who oppose euthanasia consider it to be selfish, but is it not more selfish of a patient's relatives to bind that person to a life limited to debilitating sickness merely to delay their own inevitable grief? According to the Humane Society, over four million dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year, yet their deaths are never lamented. Why is it that the life of domesticated animal is of less value than that of an invalid? Why is euthanasia considered merciful when performed on animals, yet murderous when involving humans? Pain and sickness transcend species.

Oregon's Death with Dignity Act requires potential candidates to consult with physicians and be approved by a board, thereby drastically reducing the probability of abuse. To advocate the cruel prolonging of a life of debilitating illness is reprehensible. No caretaker wishes to see a loved one die, but death is preferable to suffering. Euthanasia allows for a respectful, dignified demise.


Ms. Smith, you're dying
It will be very painful,
and may take awhile.
Good news though, if
you want you can drag
yourself to Montana,
where you can legally
end your suffering...

CARTOON BY CAM KAMINSKI

Sluggish handouts root of stimulus frustrations

Obama, regulators must quicken release of funds

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

A common misconception holds that World War II brought the United States out of the recession. In reality, the American economy had fully recovered in 1939, before war production even began – and the economic base had even upstaged the peak of 1929.

Alan Greenspan has already given his mea culpa regarding the current recession. Other die-hard advocates of laissez-faire economics should note the need for regulation, as well. But in the meantime, the Obama administration's involved response to the economy is crucial–as in the Great Depression, government cannot stand by idly while bodies pile up like driftwood.

Some skeptics scoff at stimulus efforts, deeming them a failure. And while these claims are not without reason, only about 25 percent of stimulus money has been released so far – which is part of the problem. While the unemployment rate – which is currently 10 percent – would have risen sharply if not for these efforts, more funds need to be loosed and used more efficiently.

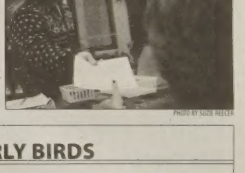
▸▸25
percent of federal stimulus package money has been spent as of Dec. 1, 2009, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Much of the funds are used for "shovel-ready" projects, those which immediately can employ laborers. While some of these projects are necessary, macroeconomic efforts should be focused on lasting projects that will improve the infrastructure of the nation–these should include bridge repair, sewage systems, creating more parks, and green efforts. Just look at Pokagon State Park, a lasting relic of the depression era that still benefits Hoosiers today. Unfortunately, such projects are not ready for the shovel. They require planning, which requires money, causing reluctance in legislators who do not wish to increase the deficit in spite of the long-term benefits.

Still, some hope has been offered to Indiana with the stimulus package. Not too long ago, President Obama unveiled the $3.4 billion Smart Grid Investment Grant program, which the Indianapolis Power & Light Co. is participating in. According to a press release, the Smart Grid will "modernize and improve efficiency of the local power grid." By doing so, reliance on foreign oil is reduced and long-lasting careers are started, as many specially trained engineers are necessary for the management of such a grid. The national job creation estimate resulting from Smart Grids stands at a staggering 280,000.

Even closer to home is the progress that will be made in Elkhart, Ind., where Navistar International Corporation has been given $39.2 million from Department of Energy for developing and building completely electric trucks. This grant was one of seven given to Hoosier companies for advanced battery or electric vehicle efforts. Said Obama, "With these investments, we're planting the seeds of progress for our country and for good, high-paying jobs for the American people." Such funding should be applauded, for there will be dire consequences if government efforts come to a halt.

Many comparisons have been drawn between the current recession and Japan's ten years of economic woe, which was caused by a burst housing bubble. Due to concerns over their deficit, Japan stopped stimulus efforts and raised certain taxes, causing the economy to stagnate and recovery to flounder. While U.S. recovery measures have been superior to this incident's so far, half-hearted measures will not get the job done. While the Obama administration might need to ditch a few shovels in the name of long-term prosperity, American government should stay the course.

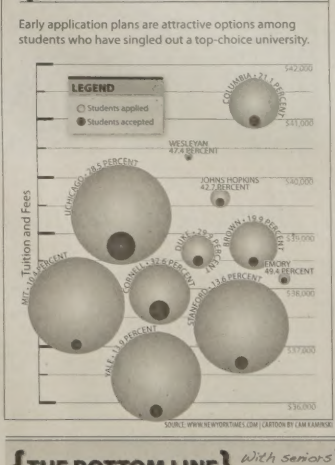


Joey DeRosa (12) submits final paperwork for his college applications to guidance secretary Sally Fitt.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REEVES

EARLY BIRDS

Early application plans are attractive options among students who have singled out a top-choice university.



SOURCE: WWW.NEWYORKTIMES.COM | CARTOON BY CAM KAMINSKI

Seniors eyeball college aims in semester's final moments

With the first semester winding down, most seniors have finished their college applications and some juniors are beginning to make their first college visits. We wish the seniors luck with their college endeavors and the juniors luck with their college searches.

Many students are greatly relieved now that they have finished compiling lengthy college applications, although the process has been made easier by the Common Application, a general form that can be sent to over 350 different universities. Still, the fight is not over there are now numerous scholarship applications to be made.

With the economy in the state that it is, many more students are seriously considering in-state schools, resulting in more competition for local scholarships. Indiana University's coveted Wells Scholarship, which basically offers a full ride, had approximately 500 applicants this past year – which is about 100 more than usual. Consequently, we encourage students to apply for as many scholarships as possible. According to the College Board, from 2008 to 2009 college costs increased 5.8 percent for public universities and 4.4 percent for private ones. While universities have been reducing their scholarships and increasing tuition, there are still many opportunities to fund schooling. Most colleges have automatic scholarships given for good grades, regardless of a student's economic status. We encourage all underclassmen to work diligently for their entire high school careers for these scholarships.

As for seniors and juniors, a deluge of scholarships await. Many AP Composition students submitted their work for the prestigious John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest last week, and Homestead's Sterling Sentinel nominees await their interviews in March. We hope for all of these applicants' success.

It's hard to believe there will soon be different digits in parentheses after student names in this newspaper.

The Ed Board
Patrick Svitek • psvitek@thespartana.com

Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *With seniors' academic futures rapidly approaching, the outlook for the Class of 2010 is brimming with promise.*

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "Which teacher would you most like to see on MTV's 'Jersey Shore'?"

Jay Curry ▸ "Asher."
Jacob Cook ▸ "Kuhn."
Sonya Joseph ▸ "Senor Peeper."
Emily Seward ▸ "Mr. Mitchell."
Jenna Banas ▸ "Mr. Lake, because he looks the most guido-like."
Wes Ring ▸ "Pat Teagarden."
Demri Braun ▸ "Mr. Letizia, straight outta eighth grade."

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

As Hollywood has singled out male friendships, the common term to call these close relationships has become known as a "bromance." The Spartana has complied the top three bromances at Homestead to understand the stories behind the groups. Mostly these groups are composed of upperclassmen, but as this new semester begins we might see some friendships forming in the underclassmen as well. However, these groups are seen, they are still close friends.

[LIFE@THESPARTANA.NET]

Beatles' classics exceed modern music standards

If one conducts a Google search of "define: musician," the first result suggests that a musician is someone who plays a musical instrument as a profession. If instrumental talent is the defining factor in what is considered music, contemporary radio stations are participating in false advertising. It seems to me that music has become a popularity contest rather than a talent show.

While I do listen to all types of music and generally just let Wild 96.3 play in the background of my room, no other genre of music is more fascinating to me than classic rock. My favorite musical group is The Beatles, hands down. The explanation for my admiration is really very simple; their songs have depth. Each element of every song is neatly planned: beautiful melodies, rhythmic undertones and quality lyrics can be heard from their first album (Please Please Me) to their very last (Let It Be).

10 Items or Less

By Hana Svetlovics
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

I struggle to find contemporary music that remotely compares to the Fab Four's repertoire. Rarely does one hear chord progressions or heartfelt jam sessions similar to any of George Harrison's. Song lyrics attributed to Lennon-McCartney have not met a match in the four decades since the group's disbandment. It seems entirely possible to me that there are no contenders in this era only because reaching the height of musical fame does not demand as much as it once did.

Making it in today's industry does not demand a lot of talent; it simply demands a pretty face to mimic musicianship. Let's be honest about it; the only Beatle that could pass as good looking is Paul McCartney, and even he is not to the standard of a Nick Jonas or a Justin Timberlake. Ringo Starr's big nose would have no place in today's music biz despite his immense talent on a drum kit. That being said, good looks are not entirely to blame for the lack of quality music in today's society.

The decline of musical ability has also stemmed from technology. Why spend years perfecting an instrument when a computer can produce the exact same result in a matter of seconds? What is even more disgusting is that vocal ability need not be considered for a band's vocalist with the invention of auto-tune software. Instead of heralding a person for their God-given talents and abilities, the record industry is mass-manufacturing something valuable and selling it in a digital format for 99 cents a track.

> "Making it in today's industry does not demand a lot of talent; it simply demands a pretty face to mimic musicianship."
>
> **HANA SVETLOVICS**
> *Writer*

In the same way technology is destroying musical standards, it is also affecting what music will be like in the generations to come. Time that used to be spent on taking lessons and perfecting an art are now spent on video games that portray musical ability. While Guitar Hero and Rock Band pass the time on a Saturday night, ten years from now, what will the gamers of our generation have to show for it? Hours spent playing a plastic replica of a guitar become meaningless when nothing productive comes of them.

"With every mistake, we must surely be learning. Still, my guitar gently weeps."

Geeky (and loving it)

By Nicole Ivanovic
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

For those students seeking forms of entertainment outside of the athletics and groups presented in the school scene, reading novels and playing video games are merely two of numerous hobbies enjoyed by teens in their free time. The wide range of activities available to consume in the life of a high school-enrolled student allows for some unusual but popular interests. The flow of popular hobbies often has its ups and downs, and lifetime interests are rare but budding. No matter what it is, people that are passionate about their interests love to talk about them.

Alex Tsiguloff (11), Harry Potter fan, is merely one of these people.

"My first grade language arts teacher would read to us every day. She started the year with the new Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, but a parent complained and we had to stop after the first few chapters. I asked for the book for Christmas, and it all started from there," Tsiguloff said.

As most forms of media that become popular, the Harry Potter story did not stop there. The series continued, creating the question as to whether following the series is a "geeky" interest.

"There are a lot of people that like Harry Potter, and in this large group of people there really isn't a minority which is considered 'different' or 'weird.' But I have to say that I'm still a geek because I'm completely into Harry Potter," Tsiguloff said.

Benjamin Williams (11) also shares this love of reading for a hobby.

"I enjoy reading science fiction books; they are different because they make you think more than other books with the science theories they use and the theories they introduce to you," Williams said. "I sometimes think I'm geeky, depending on the book, because I know how many people would not understand what is in the book."

Traveling from literature to other media, series of games and television shows are popularly followed.

"Star Trek is essentially an analysis and critique of humanity. I love it because it deals with issues and controversies that are relevant in our modern society," Flower Ortega (12) said.

Unlike most, Ortega is not only devoted to memorizing the lines of the story, but took her love of Star Trek and turned it into an educational opportunity.

"Last year for AP Lit I chose my [research] topic as Star Trek. I had to write a research paper and make a PowerPoint. I also rented a costume and got to wear an official looking Star Fleet uniform. It was seriously a dream come true," Ortega said. "I am a proud geek. Star Trek is amazing and whether or not it is considered geeky is irrelevant to me. Plus, there are thousands of people out there that share my passion for Star Trek. The Star Trek world is insane and I am certainly not the biggest fan."

Devoting hours of time to a hobby can be relaxing for many, and when asked, several students reveal that they play video games as a hobby. These video games unleash a world where players can connect with other friends and create goals within the game.

"Call of Duty is a relaxing way to having fun. Staying up with my cousin waiting for a new map pack in the summer is fun; we try to be one of the first ones to experience the thrill of what has just come out," Austin Hiatt (10) said.

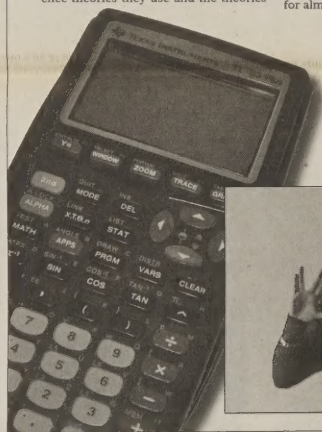
Whether high-tech or low-tech, only for the devoted or aimed at the casual, the world has come up with an activity for almost any interest.

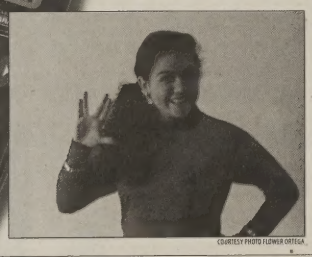
Top 10 Geeks

1. Urkel "Family Matters"
2. Napoleon Dynamite
3. Bill Nye (the Science Guy)
4. Sheldon Cooper "Big Bang Theory"
5. Dwight Schrute "the Office"
6. Carlton Banks "Fresh Prince"
7. Eugene "Hey Arnold!"
8. Karl "Jimmy Neutron"
9. Ducky "Pretty in Pink"
10. Ned Gold "17 Again"

> "I am a proud geek. Star Trek is amazing and whether or not it is considered geeky is irrelevant to me. Plus, there are thousands of people out there that share my passion for Star Trek. The Star Trek world is insane and I am certainly not the biggest fan."
>
> **FLOWER ORTEGA (12)**
> *Star Trek Enthusiast*

Geek (n): a peculiar or otherwise odd person, especially one who is perceived to be overly obsessed





COURTESY PHOTO FLOWER ORTEGA

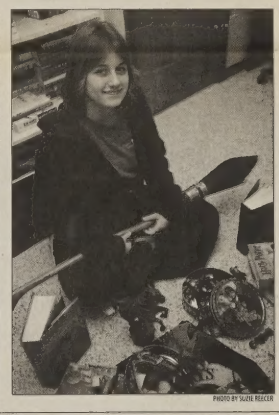


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Right: Alex Tsiguloff (11) shares her collection of Harry Potter memrobilia. The collection includes a Nibus 2000 Broomstick, wands, games, and all seven of the novels. Below: Flower Ortega (12) shows off her Star Trek coustume along with demonstating the noteworthy Vulcan "Live Long and Prosper" hand gesture from the original movies and television show.

The Ready Set

AN UPDATE ON:

Left: Jordan Witzigreuter ('08) sings live while the band's keyboarder plays at a concert at Fort Wayne Turner's in October 2008. The upcoming tour begins January 22, and is titled the "Once it Hits Your Lips" Tour. The tour will include performances from The Ready Set, Anarbor, and the Bigger Lights. Below: Witzigreuter pumps up the audience to make the concert more interactive by having everyone sway their arms to the beat of the song. The group will have their newest song, "Drain Notes" released on this coming Monday on a two disc CD that will also include songs from Cobra Starship. Five percent of proceeds from this album will provide for the Sub City charity.

PHOTOS BY BETH HAUBER | WWW.MYSPACE.COM

Homestead graduate lands record deal, major album

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Alternative pop/electronica band The Ready Set never planned on making a record deal–but just take a look at them now. Having signed with Decaydance Records and Sire Records in November of 2009, The Ready Set is currently recording for their upcoming debut album, expected in the spring of 2010.

It all began with Homestead's Jordan Witzigreuter ('08), who created The Ready Set as his own solo project at the age of sixteen. As a singer, drummer and keyboardist, Witzigreuter wrote and recorded all of his own music and began performing in the surrounding Fort Wayne area. Despite The Ready Set's beginning as a one-man project, Witzigreuter now tours with a group of friends who contribute to creating a memorable live show.

Witzigreuter says that he has a variety of musical influences that help him shape his music, which include the band Copeland as well as hip hop and mainstream pop artists. He says that he is also influenced greatly by his own experiences.

"Experiences, mainly random happenings in my life, touring, friends and family influence me; the usual [stuff]," Witzigreuter said.

After getting signed to the new label, he says that the early stages of The Ready Set during his high school years were great preparation for where he is now.

"Right after I graduated, I pretty much left and started touring. My fan base at Homestead probably contributed to my success a lot," Witzigreuter said.

The process leading up to the record deal was in no way a quick one, having begun last summer.

> "My fan base at Homestead probably contributed to my success a lot."
>
> **JORDAN WITZIGREUTER ('08)**
> *Lead Singer*

"I started talking to Decaydance and Sire in July, along with a bunch of other labels. Negotiating a deal is a really lengthy process, so it feels like we were working on it forever," he said.

Although the negotiating took months, the deal opens up new opportunities for The Ready Set and will change the scope of their performances.

"My album will come out this spring, and I'm filming a video for the first single at the end of January. We'll also have bigger tours, and more [of them]. I'll be super busy this year," Witzigreuter said.

Witzigreuter says that support from fans of The Ready Set is extremely important to their success level.

"The fans mean a lot! I appreciate anyone who comes to my shows," Witzigreuter said.

One fan of The Ready Set, Stephanie Verhoff (9), says that she hopes the group becomes even more successful now that they have a record label.

"It's cool that someone who went to my school has a good chance of becoming really famous," Verhoff said.

Witzigreuter says he does not know exactly what he and The Ready Set will be doing in the distant future, but it will definitely be involved in music. Nevertheless, he does have goals involving the recently made record deal.

"I want to just do what I'm doing now on a bigger level," Witzigreuter said. "The more people who hear my music, the better."

Picturesque Jazz Age lifestyle has no clear cultural limits

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

The ease with which a reader can immerse him/herself into a novel is merely one of many telltale marks of great literature. As I read Tolkien and Proust, I find myself fancifully wishing to be an elf (who wouldn't want to walk on snow?) or a well-regarded lady of the French countryside. However, as Middle Earth is far too out of reach even for the imagination and I regrettably am not Odette de Crécy, I've set my sights lower. After being told three times in one day that I would fit in well in the 1920's and 1930's, I've begun to reconsider.

Upon first glance, life in the Jazz Age seems positively idyllic. I would certainly enjoy the era's world of fashion, considering the glamorous ball gowns, the lavish pearls, and the pin curls. What's more, as someone who skimmed the dictionary as a child and is still drawn to the enchantment of discovering new polysyllabic words ('lackadaisical' remains a timeless favorite) like moths are drawn to flickering light, nothing would make me happier than living in the time in which literary personages spoke like characters in Dickens novels. However, the closer I look, the less ideal such a life seems.

Characters of Jazz Age novels seem to know no limits. In The Great Gatsby, the titular protagonist hosts parties of such astonishing extravagance that they attract revelers from across the state, and not a scene goes by in Brideshead Revisited in which neither Charles Ryder nor Sebastian Flyte is drinking to flagrant excess. However, such extravagant profligacy is not without purpose; Gatsby only hosts such sumptuous parties so as to attract the subject of his yearning, long-lost love, and Charles drinks out of social obligation.

Despite the era's tendencies to materialism, there is something at once inherently about the common dilemma encountered by numerous Jazz Age characters: shame.

Perhaps the greatest sufferer of all is Sebastian Flyte, who is arguably one of the most characters in the entire spectrum of literature. Sebastian is a pillar of shame, partly due to the monumental guilt forced upon him due to his aristocratic family's Catholicism; Sebastian is guiltily ashamed of being unhappy, and he therefore drinks himself to death in order to alleviate that shame. Sebastian's terminal unhappiness stems from his family's need to undermine everything and everyone that makes him happy, climaxing in the greatest line of the book: "I should never have brought you to Brideshead. Run, run far away, and never look back."

And what of Robbie Turner of Atonement, which was not written during the Jazz Age, but remains an equally great record of the era? Robbie's life is defined by the shame of a crime he never committed, one that causes him to die in combat vowing to "find you, love you, marry you, and live without shame."

The Jazz Age was undoubtedly a pinnacle of literature, but the more I ponder it, the more prudent it seems to remain a visitor as opposed to an occupant.

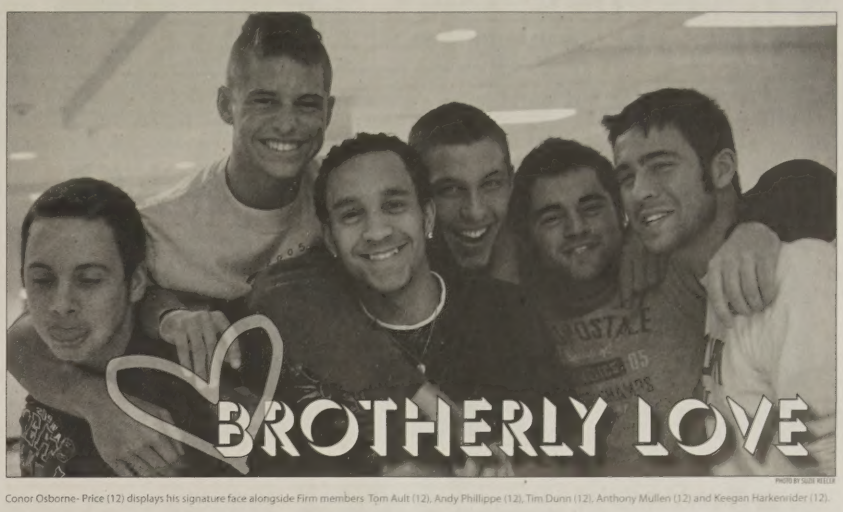


PHOTO BY SUZIE REESER

Conor Osborne- Price (12) displays his signature face alongside Firm members Tom Ault (12), Andy Phillippe (12), Tim Dunn (12), Anthony Mullen (12) and Keegan Harkenrider (12).

Student bromances become integral part of social dynamics

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
Features Editor • staff@thespartana.net

"It's guy love, don't compromise the feeling of some other guys," sing Turk and J.D. on the hit television show "Scrubs." These two are involved in one of the most notorious bromances in history.

According to Urban Dictionary, a bromance is "the complicated love and affection shared by two straight males." Though many may not understand this type of relationship, students who participate in them gain an intense bond of friendship.

The term was first used in Big Brother magazine to describe the close relationship between skaters, and since then, bromances have become an integral part of the male social dynamic at Homestead.

▶ **Brichetto/Manzoli.** "It's like a girlfriend without the bad stuff," John Brichetto (12) said of his bromance with Taylor Manzoli (11).

Brichetto and Manzoli met last year in their foods class and learned soon after they lived one street apart.

"He came up to me and I thought he was kind of creepy in a cool way," Brichetto said. Their friendship blossomed after that.

"We have a very strong mental connection," Manzoli said. "We say the same things at the same time." After one of these synchronized incidents, Manzoli says, "We tell each other to 'get off my brain wave.'"

The two hang out almost daily, playing video games, driving around, taking trips to Taco Bell or watching movies.

"We're big zombie movie nerds," Brichetto said. He also described Manzoli as "his bestest buddy (sic)."

With this strong friendship, Manzoli is comfortable calling the relationship between the two a bromance, so much so that the two are listed as siblings on Facebook.

"Bromance is awesome because you're never lonely and [always] with someone who agrees with you," Manzoli said.

▶ **Dickmeyer/Toennies.** Max Dickmeyer (11) and Conner Toennies (11) have known each other since the summer before sixth grade, but did not become great friends until they were in eighth grade. They were both part of what they called the "Super Six," a group of friends that were dating each other.

"We just turned out being really good friends after that," Toennies said.

They see each other often in school, but hang out frequently outside of school at each other's houses "chilling," which involves sitting around talking as well as doing random things. Dickmeyer and Toennies also formed a scooter club with another friend, complete with a secret handshake.

Dickmeyer claims one of the reasons he and Toennies get along so well is their similar likes and dislikes.

"We conflict with the same people, generally speaking," Dickmeyer said.

"It's a mutual tolerance," Toennies added.

Though their friendship isn't understood by outsiders, Toennies knows it's going to stick.

"Girlfriends come and go, but friends are there forever," he said.

▶ **The Firm!** The Firm is a close-knit group of friends compromised of Tom Ault (12), Jay Curry (12), Anthony Mullen (12), Andy Phillippe (12), Keegan Harkenrider (12), Conor Osborne-Price (12) and Tim Dunn (12). The group formed after being inspired by the Brody Jenner television show "Bromance."

The group then began having weekly "Bro-Nights," where they watch notable films like "Green Street Hooligans" and drink lots of "Dew," as they call it.

The Firm has many memorable "bro-ments," including Mullen's impersonation of the fire god at a bonfire at Ault's home, as well as an incident in which a car was broken and reassembled with Super Glue.

"We all like to have a good time," Ault said.

In addition to their crazy times, The Firm has nicknames which consist of taking common nicknames and enhancing them.

"We took only names we could put 'bro' into that would make us laugh," Osborne-Price said. Nicknames include Pillsbury Broboy, Ronaldbro, and Broseiden King of the Brocean.

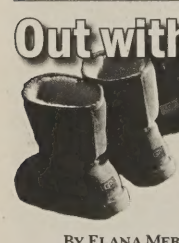
"We're all a bunch of clowns who do stupid stuff," Osborne-Price said. "Everyone has a certain role."

TOP TEN BROMANCES

1. J.D. and Turk ("Scrubs")
2. House and Wilson ("House")
3. Kirk and Spock ("Star Trek")
4. Spongebob and Patrick ("Spongebob")
5. Holmes and Watson ("Sherlock Holmes")
6. Ted, Marshall and Barney ("How I Met Your Mother")
7. Batman and Robin ("Batman")
8. Han Solo and Chewbacca ("Star Wars")
9. Chuck and Morgan ("Chuck")
10. Matt Damon and Ben Affleck ("Good Will Hunting")

Right: Turk and J.D. have a bromance on the TV show Scrubs.

Out with the old, in with the new



New decade brings fresh look to pop culture scene

BY ELANA MERRITT
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Trends are inherently fickle in that they come and go, sometimes as quickly as the seasons change. While everything from musical phenomena like Lady GaGa to fashion fads such as UGG boots were extremely popular in 2009, 2010 brings unprecedented new trends and a fresh look for pop culture.

Fashion is undoubtedly a subject of frequent discussion among Homestead students, primarily in regard to what others are wearing.

"I think the whole gaudy fashion will become more in style. There will be a continuation of high waisted skirts, and we may see the leotard as a shirt," Allison Baer (11), dedicated fashionista, said.

However, fashion trends are influenced by far more than what haute couture is featured in Vogue and what outlandish ensembles walk the runway.

"Pop culture like music, having fun and being carefree influence fashion. Music also sways popular taste in clothing, especially with Ke$ha and Lady Gaga's zany and bizarre fashion sense," Baer said.

While UGG boots have been a mainstay of popular footwear for the past few years, and some have been more than vocal about their dislike of the boots, the dissension is not about to see a decline. Lauren Purlee (10) and Sahand Emamian (10) both agree upon the conjecture that UGG boots will decline in popularity due to their outdated nature.

"UGGs must be on to at least their sixth to seventh season by now. I don't even know if they count as a trend because of that," Purlee said.

However, as UGG Boots are often lauded as incredibly comfortable, it can also be hypothesized that Homestead females will be reluctant to cast their boots to the back of their closet even if the fashion should pass.

With Google unveiling a revolutionary new phone, new electronics debuting in 2010 have also sparked conversation. As always, cell phones and iPods remain highly sought-after items, but in the electronics market, any new electronic device could capture the interest of students.

"New technology is always the most popular. Whatever comes out next is going to be the big thing. Now it is touch screen phones, before it was just phones that were cool," Loran Saggu (10) said.

In essence, any new technology released in 2010 will skyrocket to mass production and popularity, as Americans are notorious for casting aside older electronic equipment in favor of the newest and most innovative product.

> "UGGs must be on to at least their sixth to seventh season by now. I don't even know if they count as a trend because of that."
>
> **LAUREN PURLEE (10)**
> *Against UGG Boots Trend*

"Based on everyone's Christmas presents last year, those Droids are going to be popular, and I bet anything another iPod will come out this year that will be trendy," Purlee said.

As already stated, Ke$ha and Lady GaGa are two of the most popular female artists in music right now. As public opinion continues to change in reaction to the singles produced, it's entirely possible that Ke$ha could pull ahead of her eccentric predecessor.

"People are saying Ke$ha is the Lady GaGa of 2010, but I think she'll fail to deliver on that one. Lady GaGa will be the next Madonna," Baer said.

It's only the first month of 2010, and as such, any predictions made are subject to change. As the old proverb goes: "If you don't like the weather, wait a minute." Much the same can be said of upcoming trends.

Resolutions rarely kept past January

New Year's Eve marked beginning of positive change

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

New Year's Eve may have involved raucous parties and stolen midnight kisses for the most ambitious of holiday revelers, but it may just have easily have been happily whiled away by spending time with family and watching the famous Times Square ball drop. However it was celebrated, the night of Dec. 31 was the commencement of a new year, and for many across the country, the night also included making New Year's resolutions.

New Year's resolutions date all the way back to the seemingly antiquated time of 153 B.C. Janus, the mythical king of classical Rome, had two faces, one of which could look back at past events, whereas the other looked to future events. Janus was considered the god of beginnings, and he represented the fact that people could change if they applied enough ambition.

While some choose to take on simple undertakings, others apply themselves to considerable accomplishments.

"Every couple of years I make a New Year's resolution. This year my resolution is to solve a Rubik's Cube. Usually I give up on my New Year's resolution within the first month or so, but I think this is the year that I'll actually follow through," Kaleb Schlatter (9) said.

According to a study conducted by Proactive Change, four out of five people who formulate New Year's resolutions end up breaking them. A third of people in the United States will fail to keep their resolutions through January. 75% of New Year's resolutions are kept past the first week, but after January, only 64% of those resolutions are still in progress. Only 46% of resolutions continue to be followed after six months.

"I always break my New Year's resolutions; they do not last very long," Allison Jervis (11) said.

People often break New Year's resolutions because of several reasons, such as lack of self confidence, poor planning, lack of time management, lack of energy, lack of support and fear.

Resolutions are often broken because people do not commit to the goals they have made. However, there is some semblance of commonality to their formulation.

"Generally, people make their New Year's resolution to lose weight; one way to give people resolve to meet their goal is to take classes at the YMCA because there are trained professionals actually teaching the class," Brad Quandt, YMCA employee, said.

▶▶46

Percent of resolutions continue to be followed after six months

While resolutions may seem a hopeless endeavor, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

"Usually after a month, resolutions have been broken. One way to stick to a New Year's resolution is to get a partner or buddy to do the resolution with you," Lisa Hill, YMCA employee, said.

While resolutions are often broken, they are not entirely futile- if one can summon the willpower to stick with it long enough, a resolution can seriously change a life for the better.

Photography by Liz

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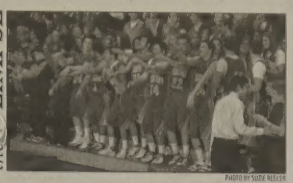

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

No, this isn't the JV team – the student section sported Twin Night at last Friday's game. And while there were only two sets of twins who were attendance with identical outfits, some of the seniors were able to borrow the Spartans' away jerseys. With what was projected to be a difficult game, the Spartans inched past the Concordia Lutheran High School Cadets, beating them 58-54. The team plays again tonight, at Columbia City.

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Arranging invitational contests becomes team effort

Strategic planning behind teams' group competitions

BY ANDY FRANKLIN
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It's still dark when the alarm clock goes off. You pack up your things and head to school, where you get on a bus, sometimes for three hours or more. After that, it's time for a marathon day of competition. This scenario should sound familiar to any student-athletes who participate in invitationals. During their seasons, basketball players, wrestlers and swimmers all participate in invitationals, in which a varying number of teams gather in one gym to participate in their respective sports. While most of the previously mentioned student-athletes are familiar with their responsibilities while taking part in an invitational, there is not much thought given to what goes on behind the scenes. What goes into successfully executing an invitational?

There are different ways in which invitationals can be ordered. They can be organized in a tournament format, in which teams or individuals are put into brackets and the winners advance to the championship. Alternatively, invitationals can be set up in a round robin format, where each team or individual attending competes against each other. Invitationals usually take place on Saturdays because of the large amount of time it takes to complete them; most invitationals are all-day affairs. In addition, teams can come from all over the state in order to compete.

Two invitationals have been held at Homestead this season: on Nov. 28, the wrestling team hosted an invitational, and on Jan. 2, the boys' and girls' basketball teams hosted as well. Churubusco, Heritage, South Adams, Snider and Marion attended the wrestling invitational. Heritage, Columbia City and Canterbury attended the boys' basketball invitational, while the Heritage, Columbia City and Garret girls' basketball teams made the trip to Spartan country. Each Homestead team had success. The wrestling team wrestled each of the five teams at their invitational, going 5-0 on the day. The boy's basketball team beat Heritage in the first round of their tournament and went on to beat Canterbury in the championship game. The girls' basketball team beat Garret in the first round and Heritage in the next.

But who decided how these invitationals were going to be run? Is it the coaches' responsibility or the athletic director's? The answers vary depending on who one asks.

"Since this was the first year we decided to have a super dual, I put the word out on the coaches' association message board to see which teams were interested," Randy Pursley, wrestling coach, said. "I chose the teams based on who I thought would be the best competition. Since the invitational was over Thanksgiving Break, I organized the table help. [Athletic Secretary] Barb [Lake] handled the paper work, and [Athletic Director Joe] Updegrove got the referees. The hospitality room was parent organized."

However, the basketball team does things differently.

"The coaches have some say on what teams are chosen, but the athletic director handles most of the administrative duties," Don "Doc" Lines, basketball coach, said.

So what is athletic director Joe Updegrove's role in the process?

"Organizing invitationals is a group effort," Updegrove said. "I collaborate with Mrs. Lake and the coaches to set up things like times and schedules. I also take ideas from other schools; for example, I asked Columbia City's athletic director how tickets should be priced for the basketball invitationals.

The work of the coaches, athletic director and athletic secretary, while it may go unnoticed, is essential to the success Spartan athletic teams have enjoyed to date.

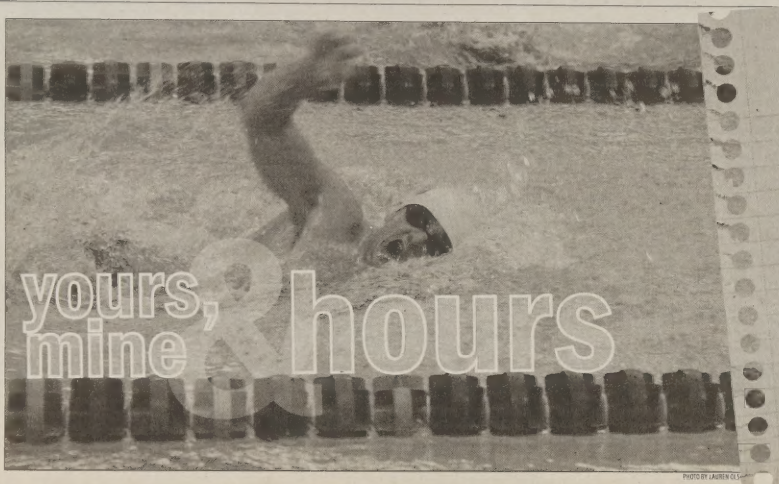
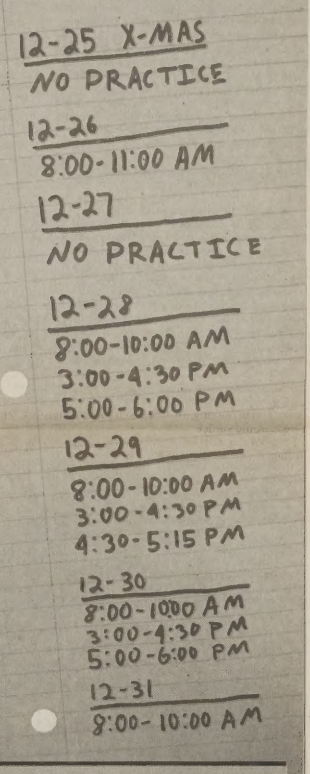


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON



Swim team puts in hours to accomplish season-long goals

BY MAX ISROFF
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

While most students were taking a break from the rigors of school this winter break, the boys' and girls' swim teams practiced five hours a day nearly every day of the entire break. The swim team has always been notorious for their before and after school practices, as well as its tough summer schedule. Winter break was no exception; while the team was able to sleep in an hour later than usual before their morning practices, the practices over break proved to be anything but a simple task.

After a two-hour practice, the swimmers were able to go home, but not for long: the team's second practice of the day lasted between two and two and a half hours. The team's practices, while difficult, inspire the motivation that makes the state-ranked swim team a worthy contender after the regular season ends.

"Because winter break is in the middle of our season, we can't afford to take a two week break," Blake Johnson (11) said. "Practice during winter break is when we can really improve and prepare for the end of the season. In between the two practices I usually sleep and eat, so there isn't very much time for anything else during the days. In the end though, our hard work should pay off."

The only days during the week that swimmers got off were Sundays. Practice was even held on New Years' Day and late on Christmas Day. Although the tough schedule sounds rigorous to the average student, swimmers are used to it by now.

"Of course it is not how I want to spend my winter break," Josh Auger (11) said. "By now we are used to the tough schedule during winter break. We work hard to win state, so we are all very motivated."

Of course, the goal is to get to the state championship, in which the team is in hot pursuit. One of the most important components of achieving this goal is the team's unity. Swim team members become very close over the season because of the many hours spent together in the pool.

"You definitely form a relationship with other swimmers," Auger said. "All that time in the pool really brings a team together, and this year is no exception. In the end, you find yourself spending time with your teammates out of the pool as well as in it. Because we are such a close team, we are able to motivate and push each other to get the best possible times out of [each other]."

> "I think that's the motivation for all of us. It is the reason we sacrifice so much and spend so much time in the pool to improve our times. If we keep improving our times, we can hopefully continue on to win a state championship."
>
> **BLAKE JOHNSON (11)**
> *Varsity Swimmer*

This year, the team returned two of its top swimmers from last season in Johnson and Tori Bagan (11). Both juniors hope to improve on their already good times from last year.

"I work hard, get up early in the morning and do the winter break practices to keep improving during my time here," Johnson said. "I think that's the motivation for all of us. It is the reason we sacrifice so much and spend so much time in the pool to improve our times. If we keep improving our times, we can hopefully continue on to win a state championship."

At this point in the year, both the boys' and girls' teams are ranked in the top ten in the state by the Indiana High School Swimming Coaches Association. The boys are currently ranked ninth, while the girls are ranked sixth. Both teams will work on improving their times to rise in the rankings and hopefully win the state championship, making the hard work that was put in during the season pay off.

OVERHAULIN'

The swim team had a jaw-dropping 26 total practices over winter break. By now, the team is used to the rigourous training, and everyone on the team agrees that it helps them perform to the top of their abilities. The practices included swimming in the pool, and dry-land training, like weight-lifting and tubing aerobic workouts. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the team swam between 7,500 and 8,000 yards (4.5 to five miles).

Wrestlers dominant during winter break

BY CONNOR O'HARA
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For most people, winter break is considered to be a time of relaxation, comfort and, all in all, taking a break from the usual day-to-day stresses and activities of high school life. However, for the Homestead wrestling team, which has a regular season record of 13-5, winter break was all but relaxing.

The wrestling team took part in numerous invitationals over the break and emerged with a performance that was nothing short of intimidating. The first competition was on Dec. 19 at the Penn Super Duals. The Spartans came out with a 3-2 record, beating Valparaiso, Northwood and Warsaw. However, the Spartans failed to deliver at times and suffered two tough losses to Jimtown and Penn.

Brad Mills (11) and Andy Franklin (12) dominated the tournament, with Mills going 5-0 at 215 pounds and Franklin also going 5-0 at 119 pounds Andrew Bowman at 103 pounds and Tucker Smith at 135 pounds went 4-1 on the day.

The Spartans then traveled to take part in the Mooresville Holiday Classic, which was a two day tournament from the Dec. 29-30. The Classic is a 16-team individual tournament, and the Spartans finished 5th as a team, with ten out of 14 wrestlers placing in the top eight of the tournament. Mills and Franklin were both runner-ups for the Classic, while Bowman captured third place.

The Spartan wrestling squad is starting to gain a considerate reputation for the frequency and intensity of its practices.

"I think wrestlers have probably the most intense practice schedule of any high school sport," Franklin said.

Practices are crucial for any team to reach its full potential, and the Spartans make it clear that they are going to do all that they can as their season comes to a close to reach their maximum capability. Winter break was not the time for the team to take a break if they hope to make it to the state tournament this season.

"We practice every day; it's always intense. I think it has a good effect on our team because it only makes us better by getting in the room and [improving ourselves]," Mills said.

The Spartans certainly haven't set their standards for this season low, and with a promising record of 13-5, it seems that the Spartans may have what it takes to clinch the sectional tournament, which will be held at New Haven this year.

"We have a good shot of winning as a team for the first time in more than ten years," Franklin said.

The Spartans face off at New Haven with the vision of a sectional title on their mind, and if the Spartans come out with a win, then it's off to fight for a state title.

It seems clear that this year's wrestling team is certainly an exceptional one full of maximum potential and many star performers.

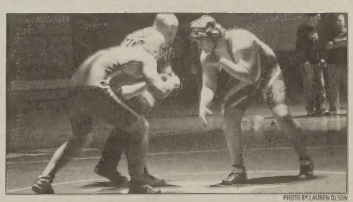

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Spartan wrestlers participated in invitationals over winter break, advancing their season record to 13-5 by the end of vacation.

▶▶10
wrestlers out of a total of 14 participants placed in the top eight of the Mooresville Holiday Classic, which was a two-day tournament held on Dec. 29 and Dec. 30. Brad Mills (11) and Andy Franklin (12) captured the runner-up spots at the year-end event.

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Wishing athletes a happy New Year, one tip at a time

I'll start this column out like most conversations do in the beginning of January, with an awkward "Happy New Year's". I'm still not sure what's so monumental about the difference between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, but people seem to rave over the idea of changing their lifestyle in a matter of 24 hours. Personally, making a Dec. 32 would be more exciting than celebrating New Year's Day for me. But, apparently 17 year olds have no say about changing holidays these days. However, I can change something: the minds of my peers, and no, not through magic.

With nearly everyone listening to their favorite sports podcast or reading someone's blog, it's hard to differentiate fact from fiction. And with what seems like 815+ sports channels and too many Air Force One-wearing masterminds who destroy their fantasy leagues each week, the conversations within the halls of Homestead are filled with arrogant and pompous sports related arguments. I'd rather hear another Jersey Shore reference than "Miles Austin caught this," or "Brett Favre threw that." (Scratch that, I hate Jersey Shore.) But I'd like to share my resolutions with you, or at least what I'd like to see this year, in the most humane way possible.

CUP OF JOE

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

C o n - vince someone (besides my little sister) that the Cubs will win the World Series. It hurts. October is slowly becoming my least favorite month of the year. It's almost becoming clockwork for my beloved Cubbies. Lose the first month of the season, Lou Piniella gets tossed, the team is motivated to win 12+ straight in August, make the playoffs then get swept in the first round. I shouldn't say get swept, I should say get embarrassed. Thankfully, my pain was short-lived, seeing as they didn't even make the playoffs last season. And after betting away several of my first-born sons along with money I don't have, I can fully guarantee you that the woefully sorry south-side of Chicago will win a pennant by the time I graduate from college. And for all of you keeping track, it's been over 100 years since the Cubs won a title, not that anyone's counting.

Air all NHL games between one and four o'clock in the morning. I guess they can play while I'm sleeping. If you asked me, I'd say that the most interesting season to date was the 2004 lock-out season. If you don't agree with me and you're not a hockey player, try naming five NHL players off the top of your head.

If Mark McGwire can become the hitting coach for the Cardinals, who says Sammy Sosa can't get a job with the Cubs?

Well, I guess crying through an interview with ESPN gives McGwire a free pass to get back into the MLB. People are even considering his entry his entry into the Hall of Fame. Trust me, Slammin' Sammy's bat was corked by mistake, I mean, he would've hit more than 64 homeruns back in '01 if he was using a corked bat.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao will fight. Because undersized men that I'm taller than accusing eachother of using PED's just isn't enough. If these two can't meet in the ring, an actual Sylvester Stallone vs. Mr. T fight would suffice.

The Winter Olympics will finally receive better TV ratings than "American Idol." After ten seasons of hearing "yo dog", and never knowing what "you sounded a little pitchy" really means, the Winter Olympics will finally triumph over the shower-singing reality show. And just when we thought that American Idol was on the decline, Ellen Degeneres was hired after Paula Abdul unexpectedly left the show. You're welcome, TMZ. (Wednesday Night Update: The show is still awful. No surprise there.)

LeBron James will leave the Cleveland Cavaliers. Unless he wins a title this year, expect "The King" to take the first flight out of Cleveland. Say what you want, but how can he turn down the earth-shattering contract that some team will undoubtedly offer him? Most importantly, however, I'd like to see him sign somewhere else so that Max Isroff (11) will have to buy seven new LeBron jerseys.

Like most resolutions, none of these will happen. Not only will none of these happen, but most likely, the exact opposite will happen. These resolutions are sadder than the overweight men and women who show up at the YMCA on Jan. 2 and are nosediving back into gas-station indulgences before "Deal or No Deal" the next evening. But if only one of these came true, I'd like to see one other person believe that the Cubs will win the World Series this year, just so I'll have someone to laugh at in October.

Eyes on the Prize

PHOTO BY SUZIE REELER

Basketball team gains momentum after winning pivotal invitational

BY ANDREW WEISS
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

While the first half of the boys' basketball team's schedule is complete, it would be easy for the team to lack motivation heading into their conference games after getting big wins early on. That has not been the case for the team, as they have cruised to a 9-1 first half and beat solid basketball teams.

After beating Carroll in mid-December, the team is in the driver's seat of the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC). Carroll has been a tough team for Homestead to beat over the years, beating the team four consecutive years.

"It was a pretty big win, it definitely puts us in ahead of everyone else in the NHC," Jay Curry (12) said. Heading into this year, Curry was on the losing end of the rivalry twice.

As for the rest of the season, Homestead has gotten big wins over Bishop Dwenger and a two point overtime win over Harding. Like Carroll, Dwenger had previously wreaked havoc over the boys' team, beating them four consecutive years.

"It feels great beating these teams that have beat us over the past couple years," Andy Phillippe (12) said. "We have a great team this year and it's showing with the teams we have been beating."

Much of the team's success has been attributed to players that had not contributed to the team much last year. Juniors Drew Sery (11) and Evan Rhoades (11) have come up big for the team in big games. Sery performed well in the team's close wins, including a 58-54 win over Concordia. In that game, Sery lead all Homestead scorers with 14 points, while Rhoades contributed seven of his own.

"They're really playing well. Sery has been huge as a starter, as well as Rhoades coming off the bench," said Curry "Sery has also brought some much needed energy to our team during games so he's really big for us."

> "Any given night you can lose to any team. It's going to be really important for us to play to some of these team's levels and just play our game to win in our remaining games."
>
> **ZACH TERRELL (10)**
> *Varsity Shooting Guard*

The addition of Tim Dunn (12) has also made a major difference in the team's pivotal games. The Northrop transfer has been a key big man for Homestead and has created opportunities for players such as Sery and Rhoades to have big games.

"There are a lot more fast break opportunities because of him," Phillippe said. "Teams we have been playing recently have really been focusing on him on offense, so it's creating more opportunities for us to get shots."

This off-season, Coach Chris Johnson opted to move underclassman Zach Terrell to shooting guard, allowing Andy Phillippe (12) to play the point guard spot. The move was made to allow Terrell more freedom on offense and create more shots for him. According to many players, the move has paid off.

"So far it's paid off; the depth of our team has helped in the front court as well, and it has worked out well for [Phillippe] too," Terrell said.

As for the remaining ten games, the team faces a moderately weak schedule. No teams on the remaining schedule are featured on the Indiana Max Prep's Top 25, while Homestead sits at the 11th spot. A key in these games might be not overlooking the lesser teams.

"Any given night you can lose to any team," Terrell said. "It's going to be really important for us to play to some of these team's levels and just play our game to win in our remaining games."

Much of the team's success may have nothing to do with something they can control on the court. Last year's academic ineligibility hurt the team in the second half of the season, as the team sputtered to follow up with a 7-7 second half of the season.

"The coaches and the captains have really stressed education importance this year and that our success depends on it," Curry said. "By the looks of it, everyone should be eligible, and that should help us in our remaining games."

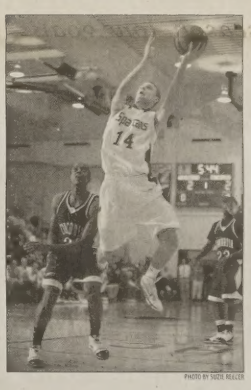

PHOTO BY SUZIE REELER

TURNING POINTS

For tonight's game against Columbia City, Andy Phillippe said that a win depends on "slowing down the pace of the game, taking good shots and limiting them to one shot per possession."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REELER

Top: Tim Dunn (12) boxes out Concordia defenders at the game last Friday. Far left: Drew Sery (11) attempts a lay-up as he loses his balance for the Spartans. Bottom center: Evan Rhoades (11) tries to grab a loose ball from a Cadet.

REMAINING SCHEDULE

Jan. 15 at Columbia City
Jan. 19 vs. North Side
Jan. 23 vs. Belmont
Feb. 2 vs. Cantebury
Feb. 6 vs. New Haven
Feb. 11 vs. Norwell
Feb. 17 at Elmhurst
Feb. 19 at Snider
Feb. 23 at Northrop

SEASON CHECKPOINT: CLUB SPORTS

Bowling team rolls through regular season

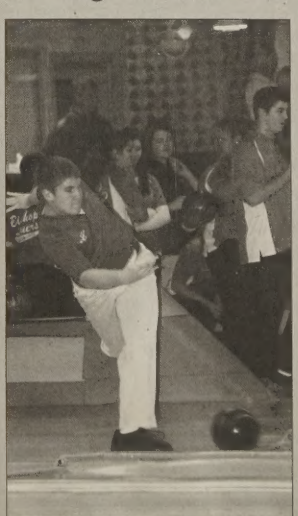

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Tanner Crandall (11), brother of team captain Brandon Crandall (12), throws a ball during a match against Elmhurst earlier this season. The team's record is 4-2.

As one of the fastest growing club sports has made its way to Homestead, the bowling team has made a lasting impression on the Fort Wayne area. Composed of both boys' and girls' teams, the team is lead by head coach Don Crandall, who has been coaching for the past seven years. As opposed to other sports, club sports aren't recognized by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). They do not receive funding from the school and never officially earn varsity letters.

"Bowling has been the fastest growing high school sport in America for more than a decade, and I do believe it should be more than just a club," Dan Kiefer (12) said. "I think it that if it did become a high school varsity sport, not only would growth in the sport continue, but it would start to be looked at more as a sport and become a more popular form of entertainment as well."

The team is in the Fort Wayne Conference, one of 23 conferences in Indiana. And like other sports, the bowling team competes against rivals like Snider, Norwell and Bishop Luers. Although it is seen as a leisure sport, Kiefer explains why it needs to be taken more seriously. Most club sports are not taken as seriously as school sports, but the Homestead club team records prove this statement to be wrong.

"Bowling is overlooked as a sport because it's 'nonathletic,' which is far from the truth. Many people don't even consider it a sport," Kiefer said after his match on Tuesday.

Be sure to watch out for the Homestead bowling team, as they continue to keep a winning record; Don Crandall and his squad hope to finish this season on a high note. – *Joe Hanauer*

PHOTO BY SUZIE REELER

Hockey team knocks off No. 3-ranked St. Joseph

The months of December and January have been the determining months for the hockey team. After spending nearly the entire season ranked fifth in the state, the team has now moved up to a tie for fourth place with Carmel Gold.

Games against Carmel Gold and St. Joseph's have showed that the team belongs in their spot in the Indiana High School Hockey rankings. After winter break, the team beat No. 3-ranked St. Joseph's 3-1 with the help of Max Davorak's (9) two goals as well as Jarred Gidley's (12) three-point performance. Heading into the game, St. Joseph's had not lost to an Indiana high school team over the course of the entire year.

"It felt really good [after winning], and it proves that if we play well we can definitely beat the top teams in the state," Nick Rahn (11), who stopped 57 out of 60 shots in the games against Carmel Gold and St. Joseph's, said.

The same day they played St. Joseph's, the team played No. 4 Carmel Gold to a 2-2 tie. This result gave them their current state ranking.

This weekend, the competition does not get any easier; the team will play in the annual Martin Luther King Crossover Tournament. At this tournament, the team will play Hamilton Southeastern, which is the top team in the state. The team will also play No. 15 Lawrence, a team that Homestead has had problems beating over the past years. The team will play No. 14 Evansville to conclude the tournament on Sunday. As of Jan. 10, the team's overall record is 20-2-2, and they remain unbeaten in league play with an 11-0-1 record. Seven games remain in the league schedule. – *Andrew Weiss*

Top: Chad Swartz (9) moves the puck up the ice.

the NEXT65

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REICHERT

The Next 65 highlights events and things to do for the weekend. Reviews of current movies, concerts listings, upcoming theatrical productions and cultural festivals such as MLK day events are all here. These events are all within a two-hour drive of Fort Wayne. Get some friends together and take advantage of what the region has to offer. Use these 65 hours, from 3 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday, wisely.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

King's holiday continues to lift spirits

Students spend snow makeup day paying tribute to fallen leader

By Julianne Szostak
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Jan. 18 is this year's date to pay tributes and respect to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the man who resisted violence and inspired millions to stand up and make the future fair and equal for all races.

While some students may simply view this memorial day as a snow makeup day, the date's historical value has a lasting impact.

"To me, it marks a date in a time period when America decided to take a step to quit being ignorant," Diettrich Hormann (12) said.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is not typically treated with the same grandeur as other holidays, but for the African-American community, the day is a time to take look to their roots to reflect on their culture. Families might participate in activities such as choirs or poetry to commemorate their slain leader.

"Every year, my family celebrates Martin Luther King Day," Taryn White (11) said. "We go downtown to the museums. We see performances, buy African trinkets, and hear stories."

Numerous organizations in Fort Wayne are holding events, all with the common goal to educate the public and share with them the courage and impact this man made on society. IPFW will also host "Dream Celebration 2010" tonight at 7 p.m., a formal event with speakers, performances and a memorial for King.

Heartland Chamber Chorale will have a concert in the Saint Francis auditorium on Sunday at 4 p.m. titled "We Are the Dream." The performance features Carver Cossey, and Heartland will be joined with various choirs from around the area.

> "I just feel Martin Luther King Jr. Day was made a holiday for more than just a snow make up day or a sleep-in day. It was made to celebrate heritage and equality, and it was made for us to reflect on how far our country has come."
>
> **TARYN WHITE (11)**
> *Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

"Music is a great unifier," Robert Nance, Heartland Chamber Chorale artistic director, said. "It has the power to bring folks together."

Nance also stressed the importance of the whole community coming together. St. Francis was chosen as the venue for the concert to attract a younger demographic and a wider sector of locals.

"We are the dream when we work together to understand the various traditions [and] ethnicities ... of the people in our community," he said.

The Grand Wayne Center will kick off Monday with the 25th annual Martin Luther King Unity Day Celebration breakfast at 8 a.m. for $20 per person. The meal, sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Club, will include clergy speakers and other guests.

An evening concert will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church featuring Cossey. Nance, also the Music Director at the church, is excited for the concert's partnership with Cossey.

"[Mr. Cossey's] 35 years of experiences as an African American performer make him uniquely qualified to help us with this commemoration concert," Nance said.

The holiday may be commonly disregarded as just another day to sleep in, but King's significance will never be forgotten, according to White. He also explained that the holiday commemorates a civil rights icon worthy of annual respect.

"I just feel Martin Luther King Jr. Day was made a holiday for more than just a snow make up day or a sleep-in day," White said. "It was made to celebrate heritage and equality, and it was made for us to reflect on how far our country has come."

CELEBRATING THE DREAM

"Dream Celebration 2010"
What: IPFW is hosting the "Dream Celebration 2010" where there will be a candlelight ceremony, guest speaker, commemoration music, and readings
When: Jan. 15 at 7 p.m.
Where: Rhinehart Recital Hall
Cost: Free of charge; request to dress formally

Martin Luther King Unity Celebration
What: A breakfast and commemorative ceremony
Where: The Grand Wayne Center.
When: Jan. 18 at 8 a.m.
Cost: $20 per person

"We Are The Dream"
What: Heartland Chamber Chorale performance
When: Jan. 17 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Where: Saint Francis Auditorium
Cost: Free of charge

"Free at Last"
What: An evening concert at Plymouth Congregational Church featuring live commemoration music
When: Jan. 18 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Plymouth Congregational Church
Cost: Free of charge

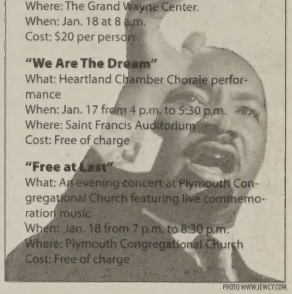

PHOTO WWW.JEMCY.COM

PERFORMANCES

"The Way We Live Now"
First Presbyterian Theater, in conjunction with the AIDS Task Force, will present "The Way We Live Now," a series of three pieces about the effects of HIV/AIDS on communities. Originally written in the 1980s, the show highlights how the AIDS epidemic affects artists and performers. Shows run through Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are $18, but free student tickets are available at (260) 422-6329.

Mizpah Shrine Circus
The annual Mizpah Shrine Circus will be at the Memorial Coliseum Jan. 21-24. The three rings of fun will be filled at shows on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.; Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Tickets range from $10-18 and can be purchased at Shrine Ticket Office at (260) 422-7122 or at the Coliseum ticket office.

Owl City
Owl City and Lights & Deas Vali will perform at the Murat Egyptian Room in Indianapolis on Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available from Livenation or by calling the Murat at (317) 231-0000.

"Peter and the Wolf"
The Fort Wayne Ballet and the Philharmonic will present "Peter and the Wolf" at Auer Performance Hall at IPFW on Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. The animal-focused ballet is accompanied by famous musical themes for each character. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children and are available on the Philharmonic's website at www.fwphil.org.

"The Drowsy Chaperone"
The play will be performed at the Honeywell Center in Wabash on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets range from $20-$45, with half-priced student tickets, and are available by calling (260) 563-1102.

Three Days Grace
Three Days Grace, Breaking Benjamin, and Flyleaf will perform at the Memorial Coliseum on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $39.75 and can be purchased at the Coliseum ticket office or from Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000.

WINTRY Mix

Pokagon, Headwaters provide frosty escapes

By Rachel Shinn
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Among all the holiday extravaganzas and Ugly Sweater parties, outdoor winter activities still prove to be favorites. In addition to classic snowmen and snow angels, tobogganing at Pokagon State Park and ice-skating at Headwaters Park still hold winter allure.

Ice-skating at Headwaters Park has gained popularity throughout the past several years for people of all ages. The common pastime has become more accessible with Headwaters' entrance fee of five dollars plus two dollars for skate rental.

"I had a very enjoyable time and can't wait to go back," Tori Barnard (9) said. Though the skating, unfamiliar to Barnard, seemed difficult at first, Barnard was able to pick it up easily. The rink welcomed everyone, even young children and those who could not skate.

"I would definitely recommend [Headaters rink] to friends because even the most uncoordinated can skate," said Barnard.

Though the rink at Headwaters Park closed Jan. 4, the McMillen Ice Arena is also available for public skating. In addition to the current ice rink, a three-sheet ice arena is in construction and is scheduled for completion later this month.

"This... will be a vast improvement for the ice community," Al Moll, parks director, said.

The recently christened "Spiece on Ice" arena houses three sheets of ice, a full-service restaurant, a pro skate shop and 12 locker rooms and is expected to bring as many as 90,000 visitors to Fort Wayne. Originally announced in 2008, the plans for the new ice rink include a 6 million dollar hotel, which will be built nearby this spring. The new rink is located between Wells Street, Fernhill Avenue, and Lima Road.

While it may be a longer drive, the toboggan runs at Pokagon State Park have attracted many Homestead students. The quarter-mile track about an hour north of Fort Wayne takes the thrill of sledding a step further. After the toboggan is launched on a 90-foot vertical drop, it can reach speeds of 35-40 miles per hour. Pokagon State Park also offers 4 miles of cross-country ski trails.

"The Pokagon run is unique because it offers riders the thrill of the natural hill," Fred Wooley, the park interpreter, said. "You feel all of the dips and drops."

For those who prefer to sled closer to home, the hill at Franke Park serves as a premier sledding location. Two sides of the hill are available as sledding surfaces. One side of the hill is smooth, fast and about 200 feet long. The other side is shorter, but its steeper angle will launch many sledders airborne. The hill is easily accessible with nearby parking.

Some students chose to find other sledding locations.

"My friends took me to [Orchard Ridge Country Club] and we went down the hill a few times but decided it was a little too cold," Megan Maroney (11) said. "We ended up just drinking hot cocoa at our friend's house and watching movies."

The snow over Winter Break made skiing at Fox Island County Park another possible winter retreat. Fox Island offers over six miles of tracks for cross country skiing and over seven miles of marked trails through the preserve for nature hikes.

As the winter weather prevails in full force, students love the many opportunities to enjoy the snow.

"Just make sure you bundle up," Maroney said, "and don't throw snowballs with ice in them."

The McMillen Ice Arena offers an alternative to the skating rink at Headwaters Park, which closed Jan. 4. A three-sheet ice arena is currently being constructed on the McMillen property and should be completed later this month, according to Al Moll, Fort Wayne's parks director.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REICHERT

TAKE THREE

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

COVENTRY 13: No longer costs $1.00 and 50-cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $3.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie. It's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

DAYBREAKERS Rated R
Coventry 13

What happens when everyone becomes a vampire, humans move toward extinction, and the best blood–that of humans–becomes obsolete? "Daybreakers" poses these questions different than any other movie has before.

Vampires have conquered the human race by "farming" those that refuse to turn vampire and become dependent on blood. As the supply of human blood dwindles, an alternative form of blood must be created, putting the health of vampires in danger until the human population can regenerate itself. But a replacement is not found, and the possibility of survival becomes increasingly unlikely. Edward (Ethan Hawke), a vampire who works for the company responsible for harvesting human blood, works to turn the entire vampire race back to human.

The movie is a refreshingly original spin on the typical vampire film and holds its audience captivated, though its special effects can become overwhelming. For those that liked movies such as "I Am Legend" and "Zombieland," "Daybreakers" is well worth the price of a movie ticket.
– Taylor Thompson

THE LOVELY BONES Rated PG-13
Rave

"The Lovely Bones," adapted from Alice Sebold's best-selling book, tells the story of Susie Salmon's journey in heaven and her family's struggle to answer the questions of her disappearance and murder. While the Salmons must cope with the hole left in their family and solve the mystery of Susie's death, Susie, who knows the murder's identity from the beginning of the movie, must watch from heaven.

However, Susie's family is left to face the unanswered questions of her disappearance and murder, and to cope with the hole left in their family, which almost tears them apart. Although Susie and the audience know who murdered her from the beginning, both must watch and hope that her family can figure out the mystery of her death.

Saoirse Ronan stars as Susie Salmon, while Mark Wahlberg plays Susie's concerned and devoted father, determined to figure out her murder, even if means destroying his family. Stanley Tucci portrays George Harvey, the Salmon's creepy neighbor and Susie's rapist and murderer.
– Kati Vail

YOUTH IN REVOLT Rated R
Rave

Michael Cera has made a career out of going from nerd to nuisance in films such as "Superbad," and his latest foray into the world of R-rated comedies, "Youth in Revolt," is one of his best yet. Nick Twisp (Cera) is a romantically-challenged teen who must move to a run-down trailer park. Little does he know that the love of his life lives a few doors down, someone who shares his peculiar taste in music, movies and lifestyle. To win her over, Twisp surrenders his free will to Francois Dillinger, his "supplementary persona," who will do whatever it takes to get the girl. After committing arson, the fictional Dillinger forces Twisp to put everything on the line for the girl of his dreams.

Those expecting "Superbad" will be disappointed, but the unique premise and style are refreshing and genuinely hilarious at times. The characters are over-the-top, but intentionally so, and it is easy to identify with Twisp's struggles. Cera retains his title as the most awkward actor in Hollywood today, and "Youth in Revolt" is a fun cinematic start to 2010. – *Taylor Thompson*

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Parents of incoming freshmen were invited to tour the school and attend information sessions Tuesday night. 2A

LIFE
A variety of attitudes are emerging among students prompted to donate to Haitian earthquake relief funds. 5A

FEATURE
Afflicted by the daily grind of high school, a motley crew of amateur rappers has created buzz through their verses. 8A

OPINION
The advisory program is lagging in robustness — and teacher enthusiasm — after its first semester of implementation. 3A

SPORTS
The upcoming showdown between the Minnesota Vikings and Indianapolis Colts has Hoosier loyalists crossing their fingers. 6A

ONLINE
The Spartana's official website is under construction as its layout is rearranged. The site is expected to launch again in January.

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Counselors 'unable to revise' mentor program

Hopes raised by $10,000 August grant dampened as initiative ends

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The Spartan Mentor Program, better known as peer mentoring, has been cancelled for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and is not expected to return in the near future. Although it is certain that the program will not be reinstated, questions remain as to why the decision was made and how the program's absence will affect Homestead.

The program was developed to promote leadership and decision-making skills for mentors and to ease the transition between middle school and high school for freshmen students. It was originally cancelled abruptly in May of 2009 due to a lack of staffing, leaving mentors with a hole in their schedules and with no way to compensate for the loss of the opportunity. The lack of staffing was due to guidance counselor Brian Dobias' move to the freshmen academy and the resulting necessity of the remaining four counselors to oversee all upperclassmen students who previously had Dobias as their counselor.

In August of 2009, after a large push by students and parents, the program received a $10,000 grant from the Pacers Foundation. The additional funds allowed for renewed hope within the guidance department that they would be able to offer

▸▸SEE 'MENTORS,' PAGE 2A

"Students came to realize that they truly had the ability to shape the culture of Homestead and contribute to making it a better place. They lost the opportunity to do that."

BRIAN DOBIAS
Guidance Counselor

WRITING ON THE WALL

▸ **May 2009:** Student mentors notified in a meeting that the program will unlikely return for the 2009-2010 school year.
▸ **August 2009:** Program awarded $10,000 by the Pacers Foundation; guidance department crafts modified version of project.
▸ **January 2010:** Student mentors officially informed of program's demise.

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The news radiated through the hallways as ample updates trickled in via text message and word of mouth.

A 14-year-old student had attacked 17-year-old student Billy Baker with a combat-style knife during a lunch period at Concordia High School on Jan. 13. After slashing Baker, the 14-year-old chased Baker in the hallways until a teacher confiscated the weapon.

Immediately after the stabbing, the school moved into a lockdown situation to allow police to gather evidence. Authorities were called to the school at 11:40 a.m., and the investigation indicated that blood had been found on the floor in some hallways. Students contacted parents during the lockdown and were released by administrators around 2 p.m.

A Facebook posting provided an ominous sign of trouble one day prior to the stabbing. The posting, sent by the 14-year-old to his Facebook friends on Tuesday, said, "...so excited for tomorrow, hahahaha, wait til you see my lunch."

However, Baker was unable to view the foreshadowing status update because he is not friends with the attacker on the social networking website. Regardless, he claimed that the confrontation was a "total surprise."

"He would never do something like that," Baker said. "He just snapped."

As soon as the incident occurred, it was reported on local television, on the radio and in the newspapers. Some students immediately learned about the stabbing and quickly spread the information to others.

"I heard about the stabbing from the news channel one morning," Ashlee Larkey (11) said. "I felt horrible after hearing what had happened. I just couldn't believe another person could do such a thing."

The suspect is currently undergoing physiological treatment and is in custody facing multiple charges. Baker is currently walking, eating and talking. However, he will suffer short-term paralysis to the right side of his face where he suffered the injury and will have to wait 6 to 12 months for his face to regain sensation. He is unable to close his right eye entirely and is limited in his facial expressions on the right side of his face. He also suffered a slash on his left thumb that severed the tendon, and he should regain usage of his thumb in a couple of months.

"I could not believe this happened to him," said Ben Gillette (11), who personally knows Baker. "My mind started racing with thoughts of why this happen to him. All in all, it was just shocking. We never talked about the whole incident itself, just because we didn't want to dwell on the subject. When my family visited him we wanted to cheer him up and make him happy and just forget about what happened. Overall I would say he is pretty good shape given he just suffered such a tragic incident. I am confident he will make a swift recovery."

The Concordia stabbing has motivated Homestead faculty and administrators to discuss and re-evaluate possible preventive measures for similar situations.

"I think, at our school here, we provide some luxuries that other schools restrict," assistant principal Jeff Kintz said. "The reason is because we feel we have

▸▸SEE 'CONCORDIA,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Day jobs, college classes await early graduates

Students' motivations to skip eighth semester, traditional activities vary

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

The new semester signals the countdown until graduation for most seniors, but for a few, it marks the end of high school completely. Seniors that have enough credits to graduate before the start of the second semester can choose to graduate early, and every year several seniors do just that.

For many seniors counting down the days until they leave, there's a feeling of jealousy toward early graduates. With early graduation, however, comes sacrifices. January grads are officially done with high school, and therefore choose to miss out on events like Prom, MORP, Dance Marathon and Senior Activities Day. They transition from seeing their friends every day to only seeing them on the weekends.

Even though they miss many of the second semester activities, January graduates can walk with their class at the normal graduation in June.

Students have a variety of motives for graduating early, but all of the early graduates have one thing in common: they are ready to be done with high school.

"I decided to graduate early because high school felt like it was dragging on, and I just needed to get out," Noah Gayer ('10) said.

Both Gayer and Meghan O'Mara ('10) said that they will fill their time by working at Scotts and Justice, respectively, until they go to college in the fall. For now, the early graduates are celebrating their break from high school monotony.

"Right now I'm just sleeping in and then I go to dance all afternoon, which is really nice," Samantha Sirois ('10) said. "I'm super happy with my decision because I was ready to be done

▸▸SEE 'EARLY GRADS,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY BEN MINCELLI

Seventh-semester graduate Noah Gayer ('09) prepares to ring up a customer's order at the recently opened Kroger gas station in the parking lot of Scott's food store at the corner of Scott and Illinois roads. Gayer claimed that he chose to graduate early because "high school felt like it was dragging on" and he "just needed to get out."

BRIEFS

VARSITY SOFTBALL MANAGERS NEEDED
The varsity softball team is seeking two student managers for its upcoming spring season. Candidates for the positions must be able to attend all home and away games. Their admission to these matches will be waived by the Homestead athletic department. Also, student managers must be present at all practices after school. They will be eligible to receive a free Homestead softball T-shirt upon selection by the coaches.

SNOW MAKE-UP DAY DESIGNATED
Monday, Feb. 15, will now be a snow make-up day and district schools will remain open for classes and instruction. The day was reinstated after a wintry mix caused administrators to close schools on Friday, Jan. 22.

AFTER-SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
The ALPHA Parent Group is offering a series of Chinese and Japanese language classes through March. Japanese courses will be held starting this week through March 29 and run from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Chinese courses will be held starting this week through March 31 and run from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Both class options cost $70. Middle school students are also eligible to enroll. Potential can contact Susan Braun at sjbraun@hotmail.com with any inquiries.

INKING THE BLUEPRINT

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

For eighth graders whose voices have hardly begun to crack, white hallway after white hallway filled with bearded guys and raccoon-eyed girls can seem like an intimidating maze of adolescence. However, to ease anxiety for incoming freshmen and their parents, Homestead hosts an eighth grade orientation each year. This year's orientation took place Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm to guide parents and students through the transition to high school. Students and teachers were available to answer questions during the evening.

"The eighth grade open house was beneficial to the parents and students who attended it because they got to take a tour around the school, ask questions to current students, attend the general meeting, and see some of the extra-curricular activities that Homestead offers," Joanna Nguyen (11) said.

When the administration initially asked for student volunteers, the National Honor Society (NHS) offered to help, and 22 NHS students were contacted and confirmed as volunteers. However, at the last minute, the administration declined help from any NHS volunteers and instead enlisted help from Key Club members. The Key Club help-

▸▸SEE 'TOURS,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY DAN VANDEVEER

Freshmen Academy guidance counselor Lindsay Lackland finishes her presentation to parents of current eighth graders from Woodside and Summit middle schools. Lackland spoke about the variety of course offerings, academic support and extracurricular opportunities available to freshman throughout high school.

Show choir readies for yearly benefit

Cabaret Night to offer dessert buffet, live music, silent auction

By Stephanie Ponton
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The Homestead show choirs will host their annual Cabaret Night tonight, Jan. 29, at 5:30 pm. Cabaret Night is a fundraiser evening to benefit the show choirs at Homestead. The night will begin in the cafeteria with a dessert buffet, live music and silent auction biddings. The evening will continue in the auditorium with performances by both show choirs, a performance by a guest group and live auction biddings. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at Door 4, the auditorium and gymnasium door.

The silent auction will include items donated by show choir parents and by various companies throughout the community. The auction is one of the more popular events of the evening, and the items that are auctioned generate excitement every year.

One of the items being auctioned is a prime parking spot in the senior lot. The highest bidder will be able to claim the parking spot for the duration of the 2010-2011 school year. The parking spot often goes for several hundred dollars, but it is worth the money in the eyes of many underclassmen who otherwise would have to walk from the outer lots.

At 7 p.m., several of the bigger and more valuable items will be auctioned live in the auditorium. Before and between performances, audience members will have the opportunity to bid on packages such as Rachael Ray tickets; Carrie Underwood tickets; a graduation package complete with front row seats, a chocolate fountain and DJ service; prom packages consisting of a tuxedo or dress, dinner, hair appointment and a flower or boutonniere; and a one-bedroom condominium at a ski resort in New Hampshire. Bidders may use checks, cash or credit cards to pay.

Show choir members and parent volunteers will be extremely busy throughout the night. Members must arrive before the evening begins to prepare for the evening and must dress in semi-formal attire for the occasion. Throughout the night, the show choir members serve refreshments, greet people at the door, work at the coat check, sell raffle tickets and have their first public performance at the end of the night. Members are thrilled for the new season to start and Cabaret Night is the first time Class Royale and Elite will get to present their shows.

"It is our first performance for the general public, so it's a big deal," Tara Olivero (12) said. "We have been working hard at rehearsals in order to prepare sufficiently."

Elite women's show choir and Class Royale men's and women's show choir will both perform during the evening. The show choirs have worked hard and hope to do well this season.

"We are working very hard this season to learn a new and more modern style of dance compared to past years of jazz and classical style," said Kyler Roush (12). "I believe we will be well prepared for Cabaret Night and for our first competition at Northrop High School on Feb. 6."

Elite practices every Monday and Wednesday after school, and Class Royale practices every Tuesday and Thursday after school. Both groups often practice on Saturdays for several hours at a time. The choirs and the back-up band, Anonymous Blue, are ready to begin the 2010 competition season.

"I think both groups have been working really hard, and we are excited to start our competition season in February," Brittni Schneider (12) said. "We still have some things we need to work on, but for the most part, I think we are doing very well this year. I'm looking forward to our competition season."

In order for their season to be successful, choir members hope that students and parents will choose to attend competition performances as well as Cabaret Night to support them.

"I know [show choir] doesn't always sound appealing to those that aren't in it, but it really is entertaining," Audrey Armstrong (11) said. "I think everyone should come watch the show choir at least once during our season."

'Very successful' Darkroom reopens for second run

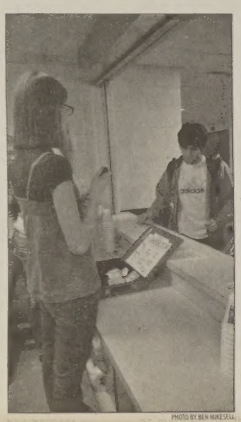

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Darkroom staff member and Retrospect photographer Kelsey Foster (10) collects a customer's money Tuesday morning before school. The Darkroom, operated by yearbook contributors led by section editor Allison Baer (11), will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays through Feb. 26. Offered products include hot chocolate, tea, apple chai tea, Dunkin' Donuts coffee, and four different varieties of Starbucks flavoring.

By Nathan Berning
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Students are familiar with school fundraisers, but the Retrospect's coffeehouse fundraiser, known as the Darkroom, promises to give students a product considered a staple by many high school students: coffee.

The Darkroom is run by eight members of the Retrospect staff and is open before school in the concession stand across from the auxiliary gym on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays through Feb. 26.

The Darkroom was conceptualized and organized by Retrospect staff member Allison Baer (12). It originally opened for the three weeks preceding winter break and made a profit of over $200. The money will be used to offset acquired yearbook debts.

> "Hot girls sell hot drinks — enough said. We even have regulars. It's cute."
>
> **AMANDA ARNOLD**
> *Darkroom Staff Member*

The Darkroom reopened on Jan. 21 with a new menu that includes four flavors of coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and apple chai. The Darkroom, which brews Dunkin' Donuts coffee and uses Starbuck's flavoring, hopes to attract even more patrons with their increased attention to students' coffee desires.

"Last year, I constantly felt like I was falling asleep during class because didn't get very much sleep, so I was tired during the day," Baer said of her idea to start the Darkroom. "I guess one day I thought it would be really nice if we could buy coffee at school to keep us awake... [I am] sort of obsessed with Starbucks, so I wanted to make my own Starbucks at Homestead."

In addition to raising yearbook funds, the Darkroom provides an opportunity for the girls who work there to learn the basics of running a business, to meet new friends and to have a good time. The good vibe has rubbed off onto the customers, and an increasing number of students return morning after morning to grab a cup of coffee.

"I work there because making the drinks is actually really fun," staff member Amanda Arnold (11) said. "I love all the girls that work there – we're like a little family. Hot girls sell hot drinks – enough said. We even have some regulars. It's cute."

The Retrospect staff hopes to continue the coffee house fundraiser past the current approved end date of February 26th. In addition, they would like to continue to expand the Darkroom's menu so that it can operate more as a business than as a fundraiser.

"So far the Darkroom has been very successful and has succeeded many of our expectations," staff member Maggie Croy (10) said. "However, we are hoping to branch out into a permanent school coffee house with a greater variety of drinks such as lattes and espresso. Although right now we are not financially secure enough for this, it is the direction we would like to head towards."

EARLY GRADS CONTINUED FROM 1A

with high school and have a break from school before I go off to college."

While many just enjoy the semester-long break before college, some choose to graduate early so that they can move on from Fort Wayne to the next chapter of their life.

"I leave February 17th for a Physical Therapy internship in Tucson, Arizona," Kara Wygant ('10) said. "I had all the credits I needed to graduate and I thought it would be an incredible opportunity a lot of students don't get."

Graduating early is not a decision that any of these students have taken lightly. Each student made great efforts to ensure that they had all of the necessary graduation credits and that they were already offered admission into college before the end of the semester.

"I'm already planning so that I can graduate next year," Maggie Kitch (11) said. "I'm getting all my credits done this semester so that I can do higher ed in the fall, then go down as a full time student and live at IU. I'm ready to take on more responsibility and to have a change in environment and I'm excited to be able to start taking classes that will interest me."

In addition, students must be sure that they are emotionally ready to separate from their friends before everyone else does the same in the spring, when seniors are scheduled to graduate June 18.

"I really miss seeing my friends every day and I would only recommend graduating early if you are ready to be done and want to start the next stage of your life, whether it be working, college, or something else," Sirois said. "I think it was the right decision for me, but you have to think about it carefully for yourself to make sure it's the right decision for you."

MENTORS CONTINUED FROM 1A

a modified version of the original Spartan Mentoring Program in the spring of 2010 and then return to the original program in the 2010-2011 school year.

However, the modified version of the Spartan Mentor Program was never finalized. It was recently canceled because no solution was found to create a program that operated with the guidance department's staff and still maintain the quality of the original program.

"[The guidance department was] unable to revise the Spartan Mentoring Program ... [so] the very difficult decision was made to discontinue the program," Dobias said.

The Spartan Mentoring Program was popular among students and was beneficial to both mentors and freshmen.

"Peer mentoring was a great class, and I miss it dearly," former mentor Kim Tyner ('09) said. "I really grew into who I am through the program."

The lack of the Spartan Mentor Program directly affects several programs and events, including seminar and freshman orientation.

Seminar currently operates in the same way as it has in previous years, except that the entire week is focused on the study hall aspect of seminar as opposed to taking a day to meet with mentors. It continues to focus on student-teacher interaction outside of the classroom.

In previous years, peer mentors have been responsible for helping freshmen find their way through the halls of Homestead during the first week of school. However, no plans have been made regarding next year's compensation for the lack of peer mentors.

Mentors who had signed up for the peer mentoring program are not only disappointed about the hole in their schedules but by their second letdown after once again building their hopes when they learned that the program may not have to be discontinued as originally thought.

"It's a bummer that the program was cancelled," said Molly Quinn (11). "I was excited for the training session in the summer and meeting new people..."

Mentors who had intended to participate in the program have had to meet with their counselors and have chosen alternative classes such as study hall, student assistantship, and other electives.

According to Dobias, the Spartan Mentoring Program meant a lot to the students.

"[Students] came to realize that they truly had the ability to shape the culture of Homestead and contribute to making it a better place," Dobias said. "They lost the opportunity to do that."

TOURS CONTINUED FROM 1A

ers acted as guides for the evening and gave school tours to ease anxious students and parents by showing Homestead as a relaxed and comfortable environment.

Key Club members were pleased with the evening's success, and members who also volunteered last year noted that this year's orientation saw a higher turnout than last year.

"I think the orientation went really well," Ashley Meruani (12) said. "I attended it last year and I think it was even better this year. I was at the Key Club informational table most of the time, and we definitely saw more parents than we did last year. To get even more parents, the administration could call it a mandatory orientation, but I don't think that's necessary because of this year's turnout."

Parents asked volunteers to answer a broad range of questions ranging from where classes are located to which classes their children should take.

"Many parents asked questions about the classes required for each of the three types of academic diplomas," Nguyen said.

Because trained Peer Mentors used to give tours to eighth graders, the discontinuance of the program left a gap where their job used to be. Despite the last-minute preparations and lack of formal training, parents agree that the Key Club volunteers dealt with the pressure.

"The guides were able to answer any questions that were asked," Renee Meyer, mother of eighth grader Quinn Meyer, said. "I think that the orientation has benefited all of my children who have attended."

CONCORDIA CONTINUED FROM 1A

a good student body. We've never had an incident like that in the past. Therefore, [we would] like to believe that we are not going to have one in the future, but no one can predict it. Concordia also has a great student body, and no one would have expected this. In order to make a school environment entirely safe, the measures that we would have to take in order to provide complete safety would not be adequate for our student body. We don't want our kids to have to go through that. What we can do behind the scenes is to do threat assessments or look into students that have been bullied."

Both administrators emphasized that students should approach them if they suspect a threat.

"There is probably no way any schools could have stopped what took place," Lake said. "What you try to do is to educate your students in the school so that they know what's going on long before others do. I think a couple students at Concordia had a feeling that something was going on. They didn't know it was going to go this far, but we try to be more preventative and we would want kids to come to counselors and talk about their problems."

But Baker believes that not all conflicts can be resolved beforehand and that it's "time to tighten up the rules" at area high schools.

"He just walked in with a knife," Baker said. "Nobody expected that. We don't have bag checks, but still, that's unacceptable."

Meanwhile, the graduating senior is fielding an "overload" of Facebook friend requests from sympathetic peers and shaking hands with strangers in the hallway. The lasting effect of the stabbing, he explained, is reflected in the strengthened unity of his classmates.

Said Baker: "I think everybody got closer as a Christian family."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: There are secret tunnels that run under the school that lead to a chamber of secrets.

Status: Fact – sort of. Some students have noticed Tunnel Access signs posted outside of locked doors. Rumors have circulated that these mysterious tunnels lead under Homestead Road to Summit Middle School, or to Homestead's very own chamber of secrets.

When the school was built in the early 1970s, an underground network of tunnels was built that lead to the old boiler room. Janitors occasionally would go down in the tunnels to gain access to the boiler room, which was located across from the current location of student services.

While these tunnels are no longer frequented today, code restrictions require the marking of "Tunnel Access Confined Space Permit Required" to be printed outside of all rooms that have access to the tunnel system. These rooms are located in various places throughout the school including the special needs hallway and the math hallway among others.

"We don't hardly ever go down there any more," janitor Pete Carteaux Jr. said. "I've been here a while and only gone down two or three times." – *Carrie Cummiskey*

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

NSPA

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

ROAD PAGE

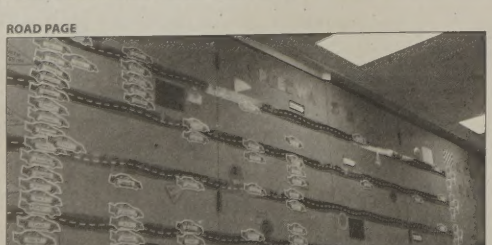

PHOTO BY ALLYSON BAER

Cathy de Calonne's English students completed a leisure reading race Jan. 15, ending the contest with a closing ceremony. Her seventh-period class finished in first with 85 percent of students pursuing reading outside of school. Recorded on the right are individual placements.

Period	Place	Student*
7	First	Chris Busack
7	Second	Jordan Miller
7	Third	Taylor Kennedy
6	First	John Rose
6	Second	Ali Naqi
6	Third	Aaron Lilley
5	First	Katelyn Friedl
5	Second	Patrick Harmon
5	Third	Sarah Patterson
1	First	Sarah Lohman
1	Second	Alyssa Hinderman
1	Third	Nathan Smith

*All students are sophomores.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Although advisory was introduced at the beginning of this school year, many students have already formed opinions about it. Advisory is criticized by some because of the administration's efforts to force social communication upon otherwise unlikely students. However, advisory is also viewed as a way for the students who are otherwise just a face in the hallways an advocate to encourage success without giving a grade.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

LEFT AND WRITE | Advisory's First Semester Checkpoint

Unrewarding OR Beneficial

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

Administrators neglect considering students' negative reactions to forced social interaction

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Life Editor • life @thespartana.net

In their establishment of the advisory program, Homestead administrators neglected to take into consideration one fundamental principle: the average student is violently opposed to being pushed toward other students.

This law of social interaction has been prevalent since the days in which kindergartners refused to share with unfamiliar classmates, and it's not about to change; while a select few do need a social push, most will formulate acquaintances through osmosis and prolonged exposure. Numerous students have jokingly stated that they attend school solely for its social opportunities, and they therefore do not need the assistance that advisory halfheartedly seeks to provide.

Students have no qualms with the organizational aspect of advisory, seeing as homeroom has been grudgingly suffered through for years. Advisory is only a colossal failure because the administration seeks that it function as a means of social integration, and social matters are and always will be the last liberty that students willingly surrender to the school's interference.

The organizational component of advisory is understandable and necessary, but its social mechanism is a silly, frivolously misguided waste of time. The administration is utterly bereft of any understanding whatsoever of the student psyche; students don't want to be coerced into awkward acquaintances, and advisory does just that. It will come as no astonishment if the next uncomfortable bonding activity comes in the form of holding hands and singing "Kumbaya."

Guidance counselors are numbered and nigh inaccessible, hence the formulation of an advisory program that essentially pawns off their duties. Advisors are no more than glorified guidance counselors, and teachers have neither the qualifications nor any apparent desire to function in such a way; advisory forces them into a position as equally awkward and uncomfortably vulnerable as that forced upon the students.

Advisory should be scrapped in its entirety. The program's intentions may have once included the promise of formulating a meaningful relationship with the advisor, but the only relationship created between student and advisor is one comprised of futile monthly meetings and moderately pushy attempts to form some sort of quasi-important connection. The saccharine life lessons that advisory seeks to impart are no more than common sense and motivational drivel, and as such, the program should be eliminated altogether. It accomplishes nothing more than wasting forty-seven minutes that could surely be put to a more beneficial use.

If advisory must be preserved, its social component must be removed in order for the program to function without the emergence of a mutiny. It should instead return to a homeroom-esque situation in which its sole function is organizational. While advisory may benefit the select few who suffer from trouble formulating social relationships, preserving the morale of the many by far outweighs the needs of the few, and those students must be dealt with on an individual counselor-to-student basis.

No matter how often school personnel trumpet the success of advisory, the fact remains that students bond more over how vehemently they hate advisory than they do over advisory itself.

Program focuses on offering collaboration to encourage scholastic excellence for students

Students who benefit from advisory aren't likely to speak out about it. The students that are heard are "not going to be the ones out there saying, 'Hey, this is great that I have my adviser' – so the things that we're hearing are 'Oh, it's boring,'" assistant principal Jennifer Bay said.

Overall, the purpose of advisory is to provide an advocate for each student, a person that can be approached for help who doesn't give a grade mark, someone who students aren't hesitant to talk to, but who can encourage them to excel. After back to school night, many parents "embraced [advisory] ... and a lot of advisors got emails from parents saying it's great to know that there's an extra contact at Homestead," Bay said.

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Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

Bay and various others spent two years designing advisory after applying for a grant to make Homestead feel smaller, emphasizing that it is a work-in-progress.

With over one hundred people on staff, the advisory committee had to find a "happy medium" as some teachers wanted "bell-to-bell" structure while others requested no structure at all.

We believe that advisory is a commendable undertaking, but it is indeed a work in progress. Bay believes that feedback varies according to how involved the advisory teacher is.

"A lot of feedback from the students tends to be that they feel really positive about it if their advisors are into it, and active, and motivating, and then there are some that say, 'I wish we did more in my advisory,'" Bay said.

The success of each advisory class depends solely on the enthusiasm of teachers, many of whom will not give advisory a chance. We encourage all teachers to plan more actively and participate in their advisory classes.

While it is mainly complaints that echo through the halls of Homestead, advisory has already had some successes where students have found help and support.

Due to confidentiality, these cases cannot be disclosed, but it is interesting to note that "most of them have come from the junior and senior advisors and advisees," Bay said.

Still, in the coming years advisory is likely to benefit freshman more as they are new to high school; Barbara Csicsko, the coordinator of the smaller learning communities grant that includes advisory, said "as a senior it is probably less of an experience."

According to Csicsko, a positive aspect of advisory is that each advisory has "grade-level specific activities–for instance, the senior grade level activity could be post-secondary efforts and freshmen could be getting the bigger picture."

Still, to improve advisory, we recommend having more integrated activities so that, for example, each senior advisory class has a corresponding freshmen class that they would often advise and interact with themselves.

The advisory committee will continue to take feedback throughout the second semester, polishing and revising the program as best they can. In the words of Bay: "We knew that this first year we would run into some challenges ... so we're tailoring our future advisory to what we've seen and what we get from students as far as what they need."

Yemen alliance is necessary evil

Unreliable, troubled ally causes more issues than positive progress

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

America's alliance with Yemen is simply a necessary evil. Yemen is a troubled and unstable country in itself; nevertheless, the United States has received assistance from the nation in fighting terrorism, however slight.

Yemen's promises of fighting terrorism are slightly ironic, considering that the country has served as a stage for violent jihadist attacks in recent years. But the violence is not Yemen's only problem: rebellion in northern Yemen and secessionist threats in the south, not to mention the decreasing water supply and oil reserves, are just a few other alarming issues Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is now facing. Even President Saleh has been surrounded by suspicions, originating from his victory in Yemen's presidential election, which he won by remarkably high margins. Some critics of Saleh even claim that he has used jihadists against his adversaries.

"Yemen's promises of fighting terrorism are slightly ironic, considering that the country has served as a stage for violent jihadist attacks in recent years."

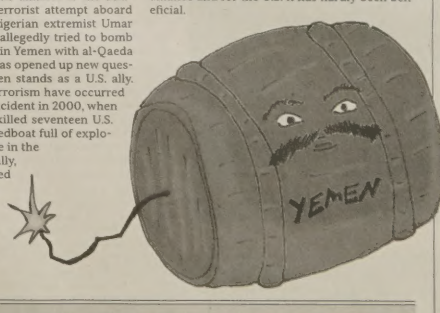
CHRISSY VERHOFF
Writer

In the past, Yemen has been a weak ally for the U.S. When faced with al-Qaeda threats, its government has responded weakly, proving that Yemen's alliance with the U.S. to fight terrorism is not one of their top priorities. As one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, Yemen is incapable of fighting terrorism on their own. In 2006, U.S. counterterrorism funding was only $5 million, which has been increased to nearly $70 million in 2009. In addition, the U.S. has sent military and CIA personnel to train Yemeni forces. The U.S. plans to double this military assistance within the next year, according to U.S. Centcom commander General David Petraeus; however, even with increased counterterrorism funding and additional military assistance, it is doubtful that any significant change will actually take place. The question is this: will a poor nation ruled by a corrupt bureaucracy make much of an impact on this war?

Also ironic about this alliance is the infamous Christmas Day terrorist attempt aboard the plane to Detroit. Nigerian extremist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab allegedly tried to bomb the plane after training in Yemen with al-Qaeda operatives. This event has opened up new questions as to where Yemen stands as a U.S. ally. Other violent acts of terrorism have occurred in Yemen, such as the incident in 2000, when members of al-Qaeda killed seventeen U.S. sailors by driving a speedboat full of explosives into the U.S.S. Cole in the Port of Aden. Additionally, militants have bombed the U.S. embassy in Sana'a several times, and recent threats resulted in the two-day closing of the U.S. embassy begun on January 4 of this year.

So far, the U.S.'s alliance with Yemen has proven itself to be risky and unreliable. At the least, our nation has an influence, however slight, on this violent breeding ground for terrorists. Perhaps the world will see change and progress in Yemen's future; nevertheless, issues arising in Yemen have outweighed positive aspects of this alliance and for the U.S. it has hardly been beneficial.

▶▶70
million dollars was donated in 2009 by the United States to the counterterrorism fund to help fight domestic and international terrorism Yemen fight terrorism on their own.



{THE BOTTOM LINE} *The attempted terrorist attack on Christmas Day 2009 symbolizes an inequitable relationship with a country indifferent to the global spread of such acts.*

CARTOON BY CELIA GRUNDMAN

Obama selects IU professor Johnsen to head Counsel

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

"It is both possible and necessary for executive branch lawyers to constrain unlawful executive branch action." Such are the words of the anti-Yoo. Dawn Johnsen, the IU law professor whom Obama has selected to head the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), has views quite contrary to former OLC official John Yoo; for one, she doesn't support torture.

Johnsen is undoubtedly qualified. A law professor, a Yale Law School graduate, a former OLC official during the Clinton administration and the former legal director of an abortion rights group (NARAL Pro-Choice America), she has harshly criticized the torturous interrogation techniques that the Bush administration's Justice Department attempted to justify.

Johnsen has promised transparency in the OLC, unheard of during Yoo's time. An expert on the extent of presidential power, she has written numerous unrelenting papers on the perils of unchecked power, especially in relation to the infamous "torture memo." Writes Johnsen, "whenever any government or people act lawlessly, on whatever scale, questions of atonement and remedy and prevention must be confronted. And fundamental to any meaningful answer is transparency about the wrong committed."

The question is, will her nomination, which has already been ruminated over for several months, be confirmed by the Senate? Recently turned Democrat Arlen Specter supports her, as does her home state's esteemed Republican Senator Lugar–which would give her the 60 votes necessary to stave off filibuster–but Nebraskan Democrat Nelson has claimed he will vote against her, and the recent election of Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts (the first time for Massachusetts to elect a Republican since 1972, largely due to Democrat Coakley's poorly run campaign) causes further complications. Health care reform alone will not be in jeopardy of filibuster–Johnsen's head is also on the chopping block.

While Republicans have morphed her nomination into a battle over abortion rights and counterterrorism measures, Senator Lugar has become the only Republican to support Johnsen. Lugar believes that a president should be able to choose top aides despite any views of theirs that are contrary to the opposing party, and that Congress requires far too many posts to be reviewed and voted on.

Johnsen's chances at confirmation are shaky at best; but still be hopeful, for she is likely Obama's best pick yet.

the facebook crawl

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "In the midst of the current NBC controversy, if it could be anyone, who should host the 'Tonight Show'?"

Jacob Felhaber ▸ "Tracy Morgan."
Sonya Joseph ▸ "Taylor Lautner."
Wes Ring ▸ "Face from Nick Jr."
Neil Rajdev ▸ "Brett Farve."
Kati Vail ▸ "Justin Beiber."
Molly Quinn ▸ "Ellen DeGeneres."
Eric Kim ▸ "Robin Williams."
Philip O'Brien ▸ "Derek Luttrell."
Bradley White ▸ "The Situation."
Kristen Wehling ▸ "Snookie."
Arpita Bhardwaj ▸ "Gregory Fryzel."
Blake Johnson ▸ "Abraham Lincoln"

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE BEECH

Zumba Fitness is a new exercise program created to be a fun and challenging experience. Since being introduced to the U.S. in 1999, the program has grown into a sensational exercise routine for groups at local clubs and in homes. Many YMCAs, yoga studios, and dance studios in the local area have classes for these groups, specific locations are available online at zumba.com. The DVD workout is available in some stores and online for home exercise routines.

Skeptical views for Haiti relief funds

TEN ITEMS OR LESS

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

As death tolls in Haiti reach 150,000 and continue to grow, I find it uplifting that the people of the United States are still continuing to donate to charities that are sending supplies and relief to the disaster-stricken country. The first weekend that the Red Cross partnered with cell phone providers to enable donations through texting, the result was $22 million in relief funds. George Clooney's "Help Haiti Now Telethon" efforts last weekend totaled $57 million in relief. However uplifting these statistics may be, I still find the attitudes of some Americans disheartening.

While we still continue to donate our hard-earned money, the cynicism I have witnessed toward relief efforts is sickening. Wyclef Jean and his organization Yele Haiti have been under scrutiny the past few weeks after allegations that the musician was taking a portion of the donations for his personal expenses. The validity of this claim is all hearsay and a definitive answer may never be found.

Other local venues that raise funds for Haiti, such as grocery stores, churches and retail outlets, are also under the watchful eye of the public. As a cashier at a local Kroger store, I was completely shocked when a woman asked for a dollar donation to be added to her bill and then immediately asked if the money really went to Haiti. The woman wanted to help, but truly did not believe her money was going to its claimed destination. After reassuring the woman that the money really was being donated to the Red Cross, I realized that I myself did not know if this was true or not; I simply had been told by my manager to allow these donations. But unlike the woman, I was not discouraged by this possibility of fraud, but rather reminded of a very important lesson I once learned from my parents.

When I was around 10, I had just been out shopping with my family, and we were walking out to our car to load the trunk. I put my bags in the car and sat in the backseat, and just as I closed the door, a teenager came up to my mom and asked if she wanted to buy a candy bar from him. He was raising money to go to a local drug rehabilitation center and he himself told my mom that he had gone through the program. My mom gladly agreed to help, and bought M&M's for the whole family.

> "...The cynicism I have witnessed toward relief efforts is sickening."
>
> **HANA SVETLOVICS**
> *Writer*

The first thing I asked my mom as we drove away was how she knew that he was telling the truth about raising the money for a worthy cause and not for his own questionable gain. Her answer has stuck with me to this day. She told me that she had no idea where the money was going, but it didn't matter. If the boy really was pocketing the change, her intentions were still honorable. At the end of the day, she had helped someone who claimed to need it, and if the money did not go where it was intended it was through no fault of her own.

I feel this is the way one should look at those who need monetary assistance. If one intends to donate money to aid Haiti, worrying about what the Red Cross does with the money will do nothing but cause mental strain. Donating to a charity is a leap of faith that demands trust of one's fellow man.

HEADING *home*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTION MARCI BETANCOURT

Q&A
Friends' Reflection

Q: What did you like most about Lena and what are some of your favorite memories?

A: "[My favorite experience with Lena] was probably the day we went to Jefferson Pointe with everyone from our photography class or the one time we went to Crazy Pinz."
-Marci Betancourt (11)

"I'd say that it was great getting to know Lena. We had fun when we all went to Coldstone to say goodbye to her."
-Rachel Stephens (11)

"My two favorite memories of Lena are when Lena and pretty much all the girls from our photography class went out to Coldstone- her favorite place she discovered in Fort Wayne. We all hung out and reminisced about our photo class, which is probably my other favorite memory of her."
-Lauren Arnold (11)

"She was like most of my foreign exchange students. She had a great work ethic, she was happy to be here, and she was just great as a student."
-Margi Hopper

Exchange student heads back to Luxembourg

BY RACHEL SHINN
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

As the new semester commenced, bidding goodbye to teachers and classmates was considered by many. For some, however, goodbye may have been far more difficult to say.

Each year, Fort Wayne is home to numerous foreign exchange students. With Homestead enrolling six at the beginning of the year, it's not hard to say they left a lasting impression. Of the six foreign exchange students, two left at the semester's end, saying goodbye to their friends and host families as they left for home overseas.

"It was not hard to say goodbye at first. I was just too excited and did not realize how long it would be," Lena Bodeving (12), who hails from Luxembourg, said. "I made some really good friends here and I just can't imagine leaving them."

> "A forever-lasting impression was the semi-formal [dance] because we don't have anything like that in Europe."
>
> **LENA BODEVING (12)**
> *Exchange Student*

Though the application process to host a student is long and complicated, hosting someone from another country has proved to be quite rewarding to those who have undertaken it.

"Our lives have been enriched as much as her life has been," Carol Winters, the matriarch of Bodeving's host family, said. "It is interesting to see our culture and lifestyles through the eyes of someone from another culture."

Though the Winters have said goodbye to their first foreign exchange student, they are hosting another from Washington who will be staying until mid-May.

Foreign exchange students will always face many obstacles along their journey; however, the lasting impressions of a foreign country will follow each student for a lifetime.

"A forever-lasting impression was the semi-formal [dance] because we don't have anything like that in Europe. It was special for me," Bodeving said. "Another thing would be how big and crazy Homestead High School is and how similar it is to the typical American high schools in the movies. The United States are just so much more relaxed [than Luxembourg], and their casual way of life always impresses me."

Not only do the students leave the United States with a lasting impression, but they leave one themselves.

"Of course there will be lasting impressions; everyone we encounter leaves some kind of lasting impression," Winters said. "We have shared many aspects of our culture and lives with Lena and she in turn has shared about her homeland and life with us."

As part of the goodbye process, it is often assumed that a party is in place. Going away parties may well prolong an already painful experience, but they also offer a clean break.

"I didn't have a goodbye party because I didn't want to make a big deal out of it," Bodeving said. "It's like leaving a part of your life behind, but we've already made plans for visiting. It was just a quick goodbye because I knew it would not be forever."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS LENA BODEVING

Top: Lena Bodeving (12) and friends display Lena's going away gift, an American flag signed by some of her friends from her photography class.
Above: The group enjoys their last chance to get Coldstone ice cream with Bodeving and the flag gets signed.
Left: A final group picture was taken at a laid-back going away party for Lena, enjoying her favorite American ice cream and hanging out with friends.

Haiti relief efforts influence students to give money via texting, retail stores

Students can donate to Haiti relief funds by texting "Text Haiti", an organization focused on helping teenagers donate using one text, that charges $10 to the person's phone account.

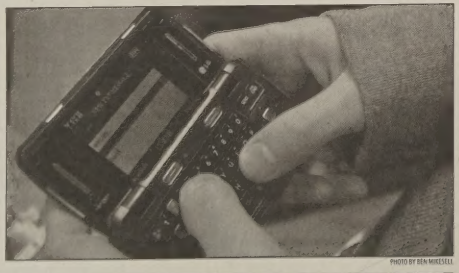


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

BY ALEX BARNARD
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The recent disaster in Haiti is well known to anyone with access to the internet, television, radio or newspaper. As soon as the day after the earthquake struck, advertisements soliciting donations to help those in need of aid began to run. It seems that when it comes time for teenagers to dig into their pockets and donate, they have found a way out of it. Now, however, with people in desperate need in Haiti, teens have become more charitable.

"When I learned how much the people of Haiti were suffering, I knew they were a poor country and we could afford to help," Bill Rice (11) said.

The media has brought the problem even closer to home with detailed footage, helping to give an emotional attachment to the situation. The majority of news coverage shows the devastation happening every day and how much help is needed.

"The TV coverage was really powerful; reading about it is not the same as seeing someone pulled from the rubble," Rice said.

Although reading about the disaster is unquestionably powerful, for almost all people, seeing the destruction is what truly convinces them to donate. As pictures and videos of the destruction are shown every day on the news and in the paper, people can easily be convinced to donate some of their money.

With new technology, there are many ways to help with the effort and donate. "Text Haiti" is among the most popular ways to donate; in order to contribute, one simply texts HAITI to 90999 and $10 is charged to their account and donated to the Red Cross. More charities have formed to which donations can be made via text for the Haiti relief effort.

> "'Text Haiti' and other charities like it are so easy to donate to [..] without [them] many probably wouldn't get involved."
>
> **ALLISON MANSFIELD (9)**
> *Donor*

"I've donated through 'Text Haiti' so far," Londen Shannon (10) said.

When asked if he would have donated regardless of the text message charities, Shannon said he would have found another nonprofit organization.

Getting different types of people involved and contributing to the assistance effort is always a goal of charities. "Text Haiti" was especially a way to get young people involved, as the average teenager is never far from his or her cell phone.

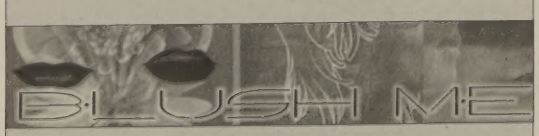
"'Text Haiti' and other charities like it are so easy to donate to for teens and younger people; without [them] many probably wouldn't get involved," Allison Mansfield (9) said. "The average teen would most likely not include [him or herself] if it required actually having to work or research to find a way to donate."

Retail stores around the country have provided another way in which individuals can easily help the cause by offering an opportunity to donate to when a product is purchased. Most stores ask for a donation of only one dollar; however, that can add up rapidly with the millions of people that donate around the U.S.

With constant reminders of the destruction in Haiti in every outlet of the media, it is difficult for people not to donate money for Haiti relief, especially when the possibility of providing assistance is literally at one's fingertips.

▶▶130
Million dollars have already been collected by the American Red Cross for Haiti relief. Of that money, nearly a quarter was donated by "text in" donors.

Amy Robbins
Makeup Artist



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Bradbury necessary read before escaping high school classes

No student can escape high school without the visitation of at least one Ray Bradbury novel, and by my estimation, such an experience is invaluable. Bradbury epitomizes the fact that a genre author need not be pigeonholed, for there is something universally human in his intricate stories, sci-fi though they may be. Although most freshmen in Honors English have unfortunately come to hate it, I count "The Martian Chronicles" among the best of Bradbury's works.

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

Bradbury created an alien race that I maintain is far more fascinating than any extra-terrestrial ever encountered by George Lucas' space cowboys. Not only are Bradbury's Martians conditioned by their sun-baked environment to possess bronze skin and golden eyes, but their precognitive dreams foretell man's arrival long before his first rocket enters the planet's atmosphere, and their telepathy allows them to transform into the object of man's desire. Despite their enigmatic qualities, there is something raw and viscerally human to the Martians; Yll kills the first explorers not to save Mars from its foreseen annihilation, but to prevent his wife from falling in love with the expedition's dashing captain.

"The Martian Chronicles" is as much a staggeringly blatant allegory of American colonization as James Cameron's movie "Avatar;" the Martians guard their unfathomable mysteries admirably, but are decimated by chicken pox much the same way Native Americans were once slaughtered by smallpox.

Bradbury's commentary on colonization is immense; man maliciously conquers Mars and consequently, Martians conspire to gradually conquer him. Humans envision Mars as an escape from the atomic war at home, but they are inevitably compelled to long for what was left behind, and by surrounding themselves with familiarity so as to ignore the bleak Martian environment, they destroy themselves.

The novel is an eerily cautionary convergence of past and future, as Mars fairly oozes with the front porches and lemonade of Bradbury's saccharinely maudlin era. Man's reprehensible treatment of a majestically peaceful race yields only death and destruction, isolation and loneliness so crippling that humans are forced to conjure their deceased loved ones from the red sands of the planet that they died to harness. In the most meaningful segment of the novel, residents are so consumed by the Earth they left that they are unable to perceive a Martian for what it is, so desperately wanting it to assume the form of a deceased earth-bound loved one that they chase it until it dies of strain.

Because humans are not receptive to the Martian landscape, they cannot escape the trials and tribulations of the planet they left. For every step forward on Mars, humans are so hindered by Earth that they take two back.

Bradbury's novels often end with the hopeful promise of renewal, and "The Martian Chronicles" is by no means an exception. As the last colonists vow to inhabit a deserted Martian city rather than construct their own, Bradbury exposes a truth that no reader can deny: forging a bright future is worthless when hindered by dragging up a dark past.

BUST A MOVE

Latin inspired dance phenomena Zumba becomes exciting, praised form of exercising

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Throwing oneself headlong into exercise may seem a challenging endeavor, what with seemingly innumerable methods of getting fit on the market. If fun is a necessary quality in exercise, look no further than Zumba, the fast-paced and heart-pumping phenomenon that has captured worldwide attention.

> "People who love music would enjoy Zumba. It feels like being in a nightclub without all the hassles of the nightclub."
>
> **CINDY BRANDT**
> *Zumba Instructor*

Zumba is an aerobic fitness program that features a fusion of Latin and International music and dance themes, incorporating varying tempos and therefore encompassing all speeds of exercise. To get the best workout from Zumba, the program utilizes interval training and resistance training. Zumba was not made for a specific group of people, but designed to be universally accessible.

"Zumba is good way to warm up for practice; doing Zumba it gets me excited and ready for practice," Courtney Blosser (12) said.

Zumba gives a core work out that works every part of the body. The heart is just one of the important parts of the body on which Zumba focuses, as it also targets muscle groups. It raises the body temperature to help burn off calories.

"I believe that Zumba is a good way to get ready for show choir practice because it brings the group together and it keeps me more in shape than I would be by running," Crystal Beard (10) said.

Incorporating different dance types, such as merengue, salsa, and cumbia, Zumba provides a staggering variety of over 180 routines. These dance moves are set to an upbeat, body-pumping Latin music that provides the people who practice Zumba with an invigorating and thrilling work out.

"At the Jorgenson Y, there are generally eight classes a week and during those classes forty people take part in them," Cindy Brandt, Zumba instructor, said.

Beto Perez created Zumba in the mid-1990s sheerly by accident. He had forgotten his tapes for his aerobics class and was forced to improvise, and his lateral thinking later became the most popular class taught at the fitness facility. When Beto came to the United States, he met up with two men who helped him launch Zumba worldwide. Zumba was introduced to Fort Wayne two and a half years ago.

"If someone starts Zumba, they will stick with it because they enjoy [it] much more than doing regular exercise," Brandt said.

Anyone can do Zumba. It does not matter if the person doing Zumba is ten or seventy, as there is no age requirement. Zumba can be universally adjusted to anyone's needs, and there have been people from age sixteen to age seventy in the Zumba program at the local YMCA. The program is a live in the moment kind of work out routine, as it varies each time it is performed.

"People who love music would enjoy Zumba," Brandt said. "It feels like being in a nightclub without all the hassles of the nightclub."

PHOTOS BY SUZIE KEECH

Top: The Jorgenson YMCA holds eight Zumba classes a week that attract around 40 people per session. Above: The unique exercise form has no age requirement and is offered at many different times throughout the day, easily meeting anyone's needs.

Page program prepares future leaders

Students experience legislative process firsthand

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

With copious conflicting words of advice regarding how to most effectively prepare for choosing a major and later immersing oneself in that major's associated career, students may feel understandably overwhelmed during the pressured window of due dates and last-minute career opportunities approaching at the end of high school. Contradictions aside, all guidance seems to reach a consensus on the necessity of immersing oneself in a given career in order to rule upon it, and Indiana's Senate page program provides just that practical experience.

As it involves numerous representatives and exceptionally particular guidelines, the legislative process is perhaps best understood through observation and immersion. According to the Indiana state website, students in grades six through 12 are invited to serve as floor pages during upcoming sessions of the Indiana General Assembly. Throughout the course of the entire day, students are exposed to lively debates, one-on-one interaction with senators, and the introduction of bills and resolutions.

> "I believe it is absolutely vital to see the inner workings of the legislature before I consider a career in government."
>
> **EMILY RAPOZA (11)**
> *Potential Political Science Major*

In order to fully submerge oneself in a chosen career field, students are presented with a dizzying array of options ranging from anything from internships to job shadows. On a scale of intensity, the page program only occupies a day of service, and it therefore provides a far less rigorous and yet equally immersing experience, as opposed to an internship.

"[The page program] gives you exposure to the legislative process. You get to go down and run errands for senators, so it's not quite an internship, but the page program is a good way to get an idea of what goes on behind the scenes on the Senate floor. It would be quite beneficial for someone interested in that career field," Mr. Keith Potter, U.S. Government teacher, said.

The page program does not limit a student to simply being absorbed into the Statehouse environment; it allows pages to be exposed to the innermost workings of the Senate, an experience beneficial to a student with even the most rudimentary interest in political science.

"I believe it is absolutely vital to see the inner workings of the legislature before I consider a career in government. I think it's very important to see how the offices and people function in order to truly understand and attain a better grasp of what participating in government truly is," Emily Rapoza (11), a potential political science major, said.

For political science and law majors looking to enhance the career-specific area of their college resume, the page program provides credible experience in a precise area of interest.

"Anything like the page program would look good on the resume of a political science or law major. To have that on the resume would help demonstrate experience and interest," Potter said.

Despite the fact that it would indeed be attractive to colleges, immersive opportunities such as internships and job shadowing like the page program are more than simply a line on a resume.

"A lot of times a job sounds good until you actually experience it. When you experience it in reality rather than what it's built up to be, you see the flaws behind it. On the other hand, it might show you that it's even more interesting than what you thought," Potter said.

Regardless of whether one engages in an opportunity to further his or her experience or simply to pad a resume, the fact remains that such a prospect is invaluable.

"I think the best way to learn in the real world is by experience and mentorship," Rapoza said. "By watching and observing experienced politicians, the benefits that could be gained greatly outweigh the 'textbook examples' that students are spoon-fed in this day and age. By learning in the environment of interest, I think that it just furthers the total learning experience."

Stepping Outside of the Classroom

Art classes used as more than graduation credit

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

While most students look at art classes an easy A or just another class, a select few utilize art as more than a grade.

"I find [art] relaxing. It's something to do with my extra time," Karen Trexler (11) said, who specializes in friendship bracelets and jewelry. Trexler made her first friendship bracelet in second grade, when she and Kirsten Overdahl (11) learned from a book.

Though Trexler will sell her creations occasionally to those who request them, she generally gives them to her friends free of charge.

"It's more of a hobby than a business," Trexler said.

While she is happy with her art, Trexler wants to "experiment with different media and try new things."

Trexler no longer relies on patterns from a book; she likes to make up her patterns for her bracelets as she goes.

"I do what feels right," Trexler said.

Jewelry is not the only medium dabbled in by Homestead students. Shelby Billingsley (9) is dedicated to her acrylic paintings.

"My paintings depend on my mood," Billingsley, who began painting at the age of 6, said. "I like to paint vibrant, colorful things." She takes art classes both in and out of Homestead to improve her work and expand her horizons.

While Billingsley has never sold a painting, some of her work has been displayed in an exhibit in the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Billingsley uses her art to release stress.

"It's a relief to put all of my emotions onto a blank canvas," said Billingsley.

Kristen Watrous (11) also started drawing at a young age. "I would draw these goofy schematic designs of juice boxes," Watrous said. After falling out of art for a few years, Watrous returned, this time with a new medium.

"I'm just now getting into painting," Watrous said.

In addition, Watrous participated in the Chalk Walk downtown.

Watrous is modeling her art after her sister, who is responsible for the mural adorning the wall in the dance hallway. Seeing her sister major in illustrating in college has opened Watrous's eyes to a future career in art.

"My dream is to design shirts for Threadless Tees," Watrous said. "I like the idea of people wearing my art."

Billingsley is also interested in pursuing a career in art. "I think it would be hard to make a living as an artist. But it would be really fun."

Photography by Liz

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SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

The bowling team continued their route to victory as they won the sectional tournament this past weekend. The individual tournament will commence this Saturday, with several members of the Homestead Bowling team competing in it, including Dan Kiefer (12). The team, coached by Don Crandall, lived up to their full potential as they were predicted to succeed after showing early signs during the beginning of the regular season in the fall.

Announcing for multiple sports makes life busy for Jim Shovlin

A man of many talents, Jim Shovlin can be seen announcing the Public Address work at both the boys and girls basketball games this season. Its a job that requires a very attentive person, who's knowledge of sports far surpasses those of the fans. He also can be heard on Saturday mornings at 9:00 on ESPN Radio 1380.

Spartana: How long have you been announcing, and what sports do you announce for?

Shovlin: I began doing Public Address work for the Fort Wayne Wizards in 2004 and continue currently with the TinCaps.

Spartana: How long have you been announcing, and what sports do you announce for?

Shovlin: I began doing Public Address work for the Fort Wayne Wizards in 2004 and continue currently with the TinCaps.

Spartana: What else do you do besides announcing?

Shovlin: I work full time at SportsCenter in the Village at Coventry. I am also the Sports Director at NewsTalk 1190 WOWO Radio and do local sports updates on ESPN Radio 1380 as well as hosting a local sports show "Talkin' Sports" Saturday mornings at 9:00 on ESPN Radio 1380. I am also the president of the Northeast Indiana Baseball Association and have played in the Mens Senior Baseball League for the past 19 seasons. Married for 30 years, 2 kids 1 grandchild and 1 on the way.

Spartana: How long have you been with Homestead?

Shovlin: I started doing P.A. for girls games entering the 2008-2009 season and started doing boys games as well this season.

Spartana: What's your most memorable game at Homestead?

Shovlin: Two of them so far. The girls win over Elmhurst this season and Tim Dunn's school record 44 points against North Side.

Spartana: How did you get the job, and did it require any training?

Shovlin: A friend knew that I had P.A. experience with the Wizards/TinCaps and asked if I would be interested in working the girls games.

Spartana: What is the biggest difference between a good announcer and a bad one?

Shovlin: Good announcers are easily understood and do not disrespect the game by taunting opponents or talking during inappropriate times.

Spartana: What's your ideal game to announce for?

Shovlin: In basketball, a game between 2 good teams. In baseball, I like the sold out stadium because it's my job to get the crowd involved in the game.

Spartana: How often do you announce for the TinCaps?

Shovlin: I've been the PA announcer for 6 seasons, doing 70 games each season. In 2009, I started working as the Sports Director on the morning show on WOWO which means I start my day at 3:30 in the morning. In 2010, I'll do the weekend home games for the TinCaps.

Spartana: Which is more of a challenge to announce for, baseball or basketball?

Shovlin: Basketball! Its faster paced. You have to keep a close eye on rebound baskets to see who scored and pay close attention to referees when they signal a foul. You also have to announce the subs entering the game and sometimes you'll get 5 players at the scorer's table at once.

Spartana: What was it like seeing them win the Midwest Championship?

Shovlin: Awesome! The 2009 TinCaps season was indeed a storybook season and the championship rings arrive in a week!

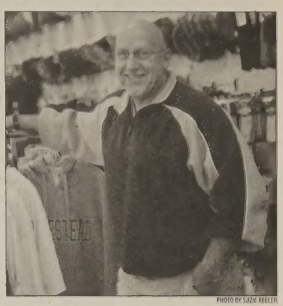

PHOTO BY SADIE REECER

Jim Shovlin is currently announcing for Homestead's boys' and girls' basketball teams. He also announced approximately 70 games for the Fort Wayne TinCaps during their inaugural season in 2009.

THEORY of revolution

Changes in roster, postseason pressures force divers to make adaptations for upcoming sectionals

BY ANDREW WEISS
Writer - staff@thespartana.net

When one thinks of high school aquatics, diving is typically not the first sport to come to mind. Diving is an often overlooked event, but it can contribute greatly to securing a win at a high school swim and dive meet. Homestead Dive Team was especially valuable at this year's NHC conference meet, where the girls' team placed first through third in the diving event.

Bailey Wills (9) placed first in the event, while Micah Spurgeon (11) placed second and Madie Zirzow (10) placed third.

"It's really important to both the girls' and boys' teams' to score well, especially for Homestead," Coach Jill Eakright, who works with the divers, said. "We've had some really good divers over the past couple years and that has really helped us."

> "We've had some really good divers over the past couple years and that has really helped us."
>
> **JILL EAKRIGHT**
> *Dive Coach*

Mariah Kiefer ('09), the team's top diver last year, placed eleventh at the Indiana High School Swim and Dive state finals last year. Kiefer's eleventh place finish earned the team six of their total 160 points and was key to Homestead's third place finish. Had Kiefer not placed, the team would have placed fourth behind Chesterton, who finished the finals with 161 total points.

Despite the loss of Kiefer, the girls' dive team has attained valuable points for the girl's swim team over the course of this winter. Divers such as Spurgeon and Wills have been able to continue the trend in gaining valuable points for the team's overall score.

"All of the divers did really well [at Conference], better than Coach [Eakright] expected," Spurgeon said.

Wills, though just a freshman, has been one of the team's top divers throughout the season and has achieved many of the team's top dive scores. Wills, who has not even been a Homestead Dive member for one complete season yet, started diving last year as an eighth grade student at Summit.

"[Wills] has performed extremely well this year even though she's extremely new to diving," Coach Eakright said. "She has learned a lot of new dives this year and has improved dramatically."

The boys' dive team has contributed to top scores in the same way that the girls' team has. Mitch Welbaum (12) and Ben Keller (11), both members of the boys' team, placed second and third, respectively, in the team's first-place finish in the NHC conference meet.

Last year, no diver from the boy's team made it to the state meet, which hurt the team's point total because they were not able to score for the diving event. Welbaum finished ninth last year in regionals, missing moving on to the state finals by one spot. He hopes he can make it to state this year, his final year as a high school diver.

"It would really mean a lot to me to advance to state this year," Welbaum said. "Last year I had a couple bad dives in the regional meet which bumped me out of a state finals spot. If I can hit all my dives this year [in regionals], I am pretty confident I can make it to state."

A good performance will be needed from both the boys' and the girls' dive teams to win the swim and dive sectionals for the fifteenth consecutive year. As the competition gets harder at regionals and at the state meet, it will be even more important.

"Carroll and Snider both have very good divers as well as swim teams," Coach Eakright said. "A good dive performance is important with all the good divers there are in our sectional for us to advance in the postseason."

14
consecutive years is the span of time that the boys' and girls' swim and dive have won NHC conference titles.

Above: Madie Zirzow perfects her dive during a practice session Wednesday. She placed third in the diving event at this year's NHC conference meet.

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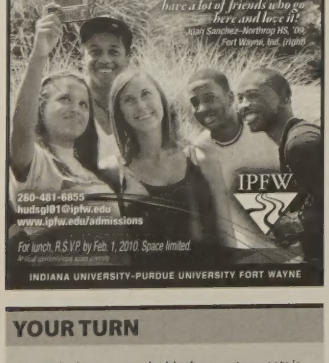

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A TALE OF TWO CITIES: SUPER BOWL XLIV PREVIEW

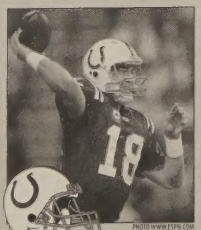


PHOTO WWW.ESPN.COM

"I am picking the Colts — they have Peyton Manning and the Saints have no one."
- Brady Gerber (11)

"Peyton Manning will pick apart the New Orleans Saints' defense."
- Evan Rhoades (11)

"They are amazing and Austin Collie is a god."
- Blake Johnson (11)

Whenever the Indianapolis Colts are mentioned, the name Peyton Manning is soon to follow. That's the number one reason why the Colts are a five-point favorite heading into the showdown of the year Feb. 7 in Miami, Fla. Manning is the only player in NFL history with four Most Valuable Player awards, and he already won his first Super Bowl in Miami back in 2006. Having one of the best receiving cores in the NFL at his side, Manning is able to throw to a perfect mix of young and veteran players. Due to injuries, second year wide-receiver Pierre Garcon and Brigham Young graduate Austin Collie have had to play to their full potential,; both of whom getting over 100 receiving yards in the AFC Championship against the New York Jets. Leading the defense is captain and middle linebacker Gary Brackett. With a lot of speed and a group of "ball-hawking" defensive backs, the Colts defense has stepped it up big time since the injury of strong safety Bob Sanders. The speedy Colts defense has caused a whirlwind of problems for offensive coordinators during the second half of the season. First year coach Jim Caldwell is looking to be the second African American coach ever to win a super bowl after Ex-Colts coach Tony Dungy was the first to do so in 2006. With a high knowledge in the Colts system and Peyton Manning who couldn't pick the Colts to once again bring back the hardware to Indy? – *Conor Price*

The Boys in Blue

Three years after suffering Hurricane Katrina and not having a home field to being in the Super Bowl, who could have guessed it? And after overcoming adversity, the team started the season with a bang, coming out of the blocks at 13-0. The New Orleans Saints are known for having a very explosive offense that brought them to Miami. The team is led by quarterback Drew Brees, who came in third place this year in the MVP voting, came in behind Chris Johnson and Peyton Manning. The Saints offense is leading the NFL in points per game, plays of over 40 yards, and total offense, which causes problems for anyone who lines up against them. With superstars Reggie Bush and Marques Colsten, Brees has many options he can turn to late in the game. The Saints defense is led by middle linebacker Scott Fujita and strong safety Darren Sharper, who led the league in interceptions this year. Cornerback Tracy Porter (Indiana University graduate) and the rest of the Saints defensive backs came up big, having only seven seconds left in the NFC Championship with a clutch interception. Porter and company will need all the help they can get against a very tough Colts offense. The "Who Dat?" boys are coached by Sean Peyton, one of the youngest and riskiest coaches in the game today. Taking a risk against the Colts might cause problems, but the high pay-off would be well worth it in the end. – *Conor Price*

Who Dat?

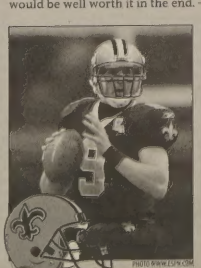


PHOTO WWW.ESPN.COM

"The Saints will win. No questions asked." - J.T. Parisi (11)

"New Orleans' offense is on fire right now. They look untouchable." - Joe Laughlin (9)

"I've got the Saints. They have never been there before and want to prove to everyone that they have overcome the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina." - C.J. Talley (11)

Johnson stands firm on game suspension despite close margin

Upon first hearing that the basketball team would be playing the Columbia City Eagles that night two weeks ago, the first thoughts that ran through my head were "cake-walk, a knockout game, even a blow-out game" along with "where are we going to eat after we win?" With Columbia City being a school that's most well known for their girls' cross-country team, it's hard to figure why I even used my gas to drive all the way out to a city whose finest restaurant is Pizza King. Nevertheless, I took a drive down the always-adventurous US 30 with my friends to see the Spartans improve on their currently one-loss season.

My friends and I arrived just in time to catch the end of the JV game. Losing a heartbreaker after the refs had been paid a large sum of money called a great game. Apparently referees don't call "travels" when the home team is winning by two points when the clock winds down. For those of you who didn't pay attention to the morning announcements (that should be all of you), Conor Price (12) signed off of the segment with encouraging words for Homestead's PF Tim Dunn (12). Something along the lines of "come out and watch Tim, and good luck team," if I remember correctly. Being the social outcast that I am, I didn't catch Opie's sarcasm that morning. Tim had been suspended from that night's game after missing practice and failing to directly tell the coach of his absence earlier that week.

Cup of Joe

By Joe Hanauer
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

Entering the second half of that night's game, Homestead held a marginal lead of seven or eight points throughout the entire game. Columbia City's team was whiter than a fresh pair of gym socks. Shooting long 3-pointers and throwing up "Hail Mary's" was the Eagles only chance of winning. And surprisingly, Homestead was playing much better without Tim than I had expected.

The third quarter ended with the Spartans holding the lead that they had previously held. Columbia City had moved to a zone defense, forcing Homestead to move to the perimeter. The score was 48-50 with 3:40 left and the Eagles were finally giving Homestead a run for their money. It would have been a perfect time to end Tim's suspension and break through Columbia City's already weak zone defense, or at least the student section thought. I looked over and saw Tim's father, scratching his chin, wishing his son could have been helping the team. And as soon as the game came close to falling the other way, part of the student section started a "We want Tim!" chant.

Did they not believe that our five guys on the court could hold out against a team that weighed a combined 300 pounds? This was the same team that beat one of our biggest NHC rivals, Carroll, for what might end up giving Homestead the Conference Championship, and then went on, to beat Bishop Dwenger, one of Homestead's hardest games of the regular season. By chanting to end his suspension early, the fans showed that they didn't believe that Homestead, even with their season of such credentials, could get the job done against the measly Eagles.

> "Apparently referees don't call 'travels' when the home team is winning by two points when the clock winds down."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

Rules are rules, and no matter how small or insignificant they seem, by playing for your team, you commit to follow them. And while it seemed like the punishment didn't fit the crime when Homestead was up by only two points with a little over a minute left, I respect Coach Johnson for holding to his decision to bench Tim. If Johnson backs down on his decisions, the team will lose respect for him.

I hate to ruin the ending of this story for you, but Homestead ended up winning that night's game. The team pulled it together and held off the sharp-shooting Eagles as the clock wound down. And while Coach's decision to keep Tim off the court at the time seemed a bit dicey, I think we can all agree that Homestead's team grew more mentally than physically that night.

The team's next game against North Side, Tim went on to break Homestead's single game point record with 44 points. I think it's safe to say he was well rested.

Defending THEIR TITLE

Boys' swim team prepares for postseason after Team of the Week win

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The boys' swim team had just finished a rough two-hour practice. However, although most athletes would be eager to go home and rest after a grueling practice, rest was not an option for the Spartan swimmers. Even after swimming a few thousand years earlier that morning, the varsity swim team placed first at the NHC championship on Jan. 16.

"It was good to know that we could beat the other teams, even after a grueling practice," Logan Johnson (11) said. Johnson's first-place finishes in the 100-meter freestyle, the 4x50-meter relay, and the 4x100-meter relay helped Homestead win the conference championship. Johnson also placed second in the 200-meter freestyle.

Homestead finished at the top of the standings at the conference meet, which took place at Summit Middle School this year. Carroll finished in second place, winning both the medley relay and the 200-meter freestyle, and Bellmont finished third. East Noble finished fourth, Norwell finished fifth, Columbia City finished sixth, and Dekalb finished seventh.

"Carroll was our main competition. Knowing that we still had enough energy and were able to come together as a team and beat Carroll was rewarding," Joel Foreman (10) said. Foreman competed in the 200-meter medley relay, 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle, and 200-meter freestyle relay.

The Spartan swimmers practiced diligently and spent extra hours in the pool to prepare for the conference meet, for sectionals, and hopefully for the state championship. The state championships are the team's primary goal and have been the swim team's focus throughout the season. The two-hour practice before the conference championship was simply another measure taken to ensure the team's success in the postseason.

"It was brutal," said Jacob Cook (10). "We reached a total of 9 hours at the pool for the day, and that certainly takes a toll on your body in the long run." Cook won the 200-meter individual medley and finished fourth in the 100-meter breaststroke. Cook was recently named the Impact Player of the Week by Aboite & About for his efforts during the day's meet.

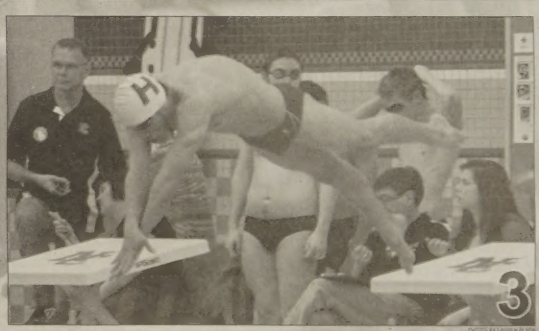
The Spartans' victory in the NHC championship allows them to move on to the sectional championships and possibly even the state championships. The conference championship not only allowed the Spartans to advance to sectionals but also showed an increase in student support for the swim team. At the conference championships last year, only two students who were not on the swim team were in attendance. This year there were eight students in the crowd during the meet.

"We know it isn't much, but it's a start to where we want it to be," said Cook. Cook has been trying to increase the student fan base for his sport, and hopes to one day have a legitimate student section similar to that of the football and basketball team.

"I took great interest in the idea after seeing how big the student sections were for every other sport, and thought that it would be amazing if we had one too," said Cook. The Homestead Swim and Dive student section now has a Facebook group with over 150 members. Members of the group receive updates with times of swim meets and other information. Cook has also expressed interest in making and selling Swim and Dive student section shirts.

The team gained great momentum after winning the conference meet, and team members hope to continue the long strides that they have accomplished during the season. The team stays hopeful as they finish they are projected to finish their season on a strong note. As practice was ending on Tuesday of this week, it was announced to both the boys and girls teams that they had been given the honor of becoming New Channel 15's newest Team of the Week.

With the conference championships behind them, the team is now looking ahead to the final four competitions of their season. The team has a college-events meet at Fishers and a meet at North Central this weekend. Sectionals are Feb. 18 and 20, and the state championships are Feb. 26 and 27.



1. Robbie Veenstra (9) pulls into a start to begin a backstroke event.
2. Josh Auger (11) focusses while competing in the back stroke.
3. Jake Fumas (11) plunges into the air to start his event.
4. Blake Johnson (11) swims his hardest at a freestyle event.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSEN

Gymnastics keeps positive attitude, high spirits

Varsity hopes to gain larger student following despite setbacks from multiple injuries

By Connor O'Hara
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Most students at Homestead are familiar with most of the athletic departments of the school, such as wrestling, football, and tennis, but one team remains unfamiliar to students and deserves a little recognition: the gymnastics team.

The team, led by head coach Kristen Wittenmeyer, has had a slow start to their season so far but is optimistic that they will soon rise to the challenge of beating other gymnastic teams in the area. The team started conditioning for their season in the beginning of November and began practices during the first week of December.

Gymnastics practices test all of the gymnasts' endurance and flexibility.

"We start off by running laps around the freshman academy, followed by team stretching and team warm-up tumbling. Then we split up, fixing and practicing the routines we need to work on," says Cara Pepperman (11).

Practices are just as crucial for the gymnastic department as they are with any other team, especially because all of their work and practice comes completely into play when the team goes to a meet.

Gymnastic meets focus on both individual scores and a team score. The individual score is based on a starting score of ten points, and if any deductions are necessary, points are deducted from the original ten. The team score is based on four main events: vault, beam, bar and floor. The judges take the top three scores from each of the four main events and add them to give each team their final score.

The gymnastics team has taken part in one invitational since their season began, but failed to finish as well as the team would have liked.

"We have had one invitational, the Concordia Classic. We placed 11th out of 15 teams," said Pepperman.

Many students at Homestead are unfamiliar with gymnastics and do not know much about the sport, which is unfortunate considering the hard work that the teammates put into every meet.

> "People that don't know the sport [gymnastics] would be surprised on how many injuries there are and how dangerous it is."
>
> **MADIE ZIRZOW (10)**
> *Varsity Gymnast*

"I would say that people that have never been to a gymnastics meet would be surprised about what we do," said Madie Zirzow (10). "It's not every day when you see someone flip on a beam or do crazy tricks on bars. People that don't know the sport would be surprised on how many injuries there are and how dangerous it is."

Injuries are a part of any sport, but in a sport where team members fly through the air and do excessive contortions with their extremities, they tend to be more common. "Right now we have 3 people injured and unable to compete, which hurts our chances of winning," said Zirzow.

The gymnastics team does not have the full reputation of the swim team and football team and is still a young program, but they have already begun to build a legacy.

"Compared to other schools, we are a growing and young team; however, Homestead has held the state championship record for gymnastics. In fact, Gymnastics is the only sport at Homestead who has won state," said Pepperman.

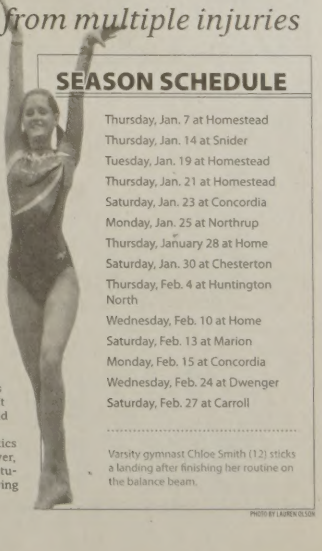
Some schools such as Canterbury do not have a gymnastics team. In fact, a girl from Canterbury competed individually for her own school but trained with the Homestead team.

"Homestead is growing in the gymnastics program, but with all the injuries, we haven't been able to perform at our full potential," said Zirzow.

Most people have never been to a gymnastics meet and do not know what to expect. However, it is time for the gymnastics team to gain student support to back this young and improving program.

SEASON SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 7 at Homestead
Thursday, Jan. 14 at Snider
Tuesday, Jan. 19 at Homestead
Thursday, Jan. 21 at Homestead
Saturday, Jan. 23 at Concordia
Monday, Jan. 25 at Northrup
Thursday, January 28 at Home
Saturday, Jan. 30 at Chesterton
Thursday, Feb. 4 at Huntington North
Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Home
Saturday, Feb. 13 at Marion
Monday, Feb. 15 at Concordia
Wednesday, Feb. 24 at Dwenger
Saturday, Feb. 27 at Carroll



Varsity gymnast Chloe Smith (12) sticks a landing after finishing her routine on the balance beam.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSEN

FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECH

"Don't need directions / My mind is a map
Seeing how it's been / Making it now
Standing ovation / Taking a bow
No more school / Just my dreams
Life ain't fair / Never been what it seems
Ross and Big Ben back at it again
Take a deep breath / Now hold it for 10
It's the start of patience / Feeling divine
I know you're stressing / Breaking the line
Always loved my mom / Never want to see her sad
Look how far I've come / Growing up without dad
Same old verse / Same old thing
Got nothing left but a heart and a dream
This my time / Show my shine
Spitting these verses / I'm making it mine
Hear what I say / Never doubt what I rhyme"
– Ross Kibby aka RK on "I'll Make It," produced by Denis Kosiak

[FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET]

Left to right: Dan Vandeveer (11), Ben Zehr (12), Lonn Meyer (11), Ross Kibby (12), David Meza (12), Joe Olivieri (11) and Ashton Easley (12) tempt the long arm of the law when not laying down verses in the lab.

High school's drudgery breeds student emcees

By Molly Zweig
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

The self-described fourth most popular New Zealand folk-comedy duo Flight of the Conchords wrote a song called "Hurt Feelings," chronicling the band's hardships as rappers. They cite an unappreciated casserole, a failed wetsuit shopping attempt, some forgotten birthdays and even abandonment at a showing of "Maid in Manhattan" as reasons for "the diamond tears of a rapper."

Homestead's rappers pull their lyrics from real life experience, too.

"We started drinking muscle milk and we got the idea there," Lonn Meyer (11) said about his rap song with Daniel "D-Money" Vandeveer (11). The duo's "100% Whey" video, highlighting the benefits of the nutritional supplement, now has over 1500 views on YouTube.

The Supreme Team, made up of Joe Olivieri (11), David Meza (12) and Ashton Easley (12), sing about their pursuits in love. In "Midas Touch," the boys abandon the classical definition of the term, which refers to the ability to make and manage large amounts of money; instead, they long for the girl that "solves problems like a calculator" or one who has "the touch like a new Apple device."

Ben Zehr (12) and Ross Kibby (12) boast a "Hip Hop and Rap from the 260" channel on YouTube, complete with three videos, four subscribers and 245 video views. They demonstrate the ability to count with reasons in "Four Downs," but while they claim to be "tacklin' with sound," one of the two comments on the video recommends the duo "pump the music more."

Many of Homestead's finest hip hop tracks are produced by Denis Kosiak (11) in his basement studio. He boasts current equipment and describes the studio as "pretty much the real deal," comparable to a professional studio. Kosiak usually produces for people he knows or people who seek him out–he's worked with over 15 aspiring performers.

Generally, Kosiak does his work as part of a collaborative process; he works the equipment and creates the beats while the rapper lays down the lyrics.

"Every day is a new creative process," Kosiak, who has won a contest and had one of his songs played on radio station 96.3, said.

While Fort Wayne is not known as a vibrant rap scene, it has produced one semi-successful star. Tyler "T-Pulse" Pulse ('09) performs and keeps an up-to-date Facebook group with all his events listed.

Even far away from the East and West Coasts, Kosiak said he thinks there are many reasons teenagers, especially males, like to rap, but it's mostly because it's just an enjoyable pastime.

"It's fun and makes people laugh," Kosiak said. "And who doesn't love to laugh?"

HOMESTEAD'S HEAVY SPITTERS
(AND ONE PRODUCER)

ASHTON "THA SHOTGUN" EASLEY (12)

› **Major Influences:** Marcus Easley, Kanye West, Lupe Fiasco, Wu-Tang Clan, Afu Ra, Lil Wayne, Nas, Jay-Z and Drake.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "Like Patrick, my whole clique's Swayze."
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** [The rapping style of] Kanye West.
› **Hood Represented:** Crown Colony.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** Denis Kosiak and AG Music.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Changing for the better.
Pictured below in center.

DAVID "D. MEZA" MEZA (12)

› **Major Influences:** Kanye West.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "When it comes to ladies I don't be slackin'/ You can call me Bernie 'cause the way I be macking."
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** I'm just myself. Like most rappers, they're most like themselves and they just do their own thing.
› **Hood Represented:** Fort Wayne, obviously.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** Denis Kosiak and Durrell Robinson.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Life.
Pictured below on the left.

JOE OLIVIERI (11)

› **Major Influences:** Eminem. I would like people to know it's not just because he is white. I listen to his LPs from 1999.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "I run this like four pairs of cross trainers."
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** The technology we use.
› **Hood Represented:** (Laughs) No.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** Durrell Robinson — the man's a monster.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Infinite.
Pictured to the left on the right.

BEN ZEHR (12)

› **Major Influences:** Eminem, Biggie Smalls and former Homestead rapper Tyler "T-Pulse" Pulse.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "Other rappers stink / I should buy 'em all some breath mints."
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** I can't really tell. I listen to basically all kinds of artists, coasts and styles.
› **Hood Represented:** None, really. I know I'm not a gangster. I rap because I love the music.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** Ross Kibby, Denis Kosiak, David Meza or Joe Olivieri.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: The best way to express any emotion: happiness, sadness and anger.
Pictured above on the left.

ROSS KIBBY (12)

› **Major Influences:** Tyler "T-Pulse" Pulse and Eminem.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "I don't need directions / My mind is a map."
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** I'm original. There aren't many mainstream rappers who sound like a 17-year-old redhead, but I like to rap so that I sound like Eminem.
› **Hood Represented:** I don't represent a hood. But I guess you could say the 260.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** I'd love to do a rap with [English teacher] Mr. Jankowski — I think he would be clutch. But along with [rapping] with Ben Zehr, I think doing a few songs with David Meza and the Supreme Team would give me a greater variety audience to appeal to.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Something everyone should try; whether you are ghetto or not, being creative is how to express what you are feeling through lyrics.
Pictured above on the right.

DENIS KOSIAK (11)

› **Major Influences:** Sufjan Stevens, Death Cab For Cutie, Beastie Boys, Dr. Dre.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "But I call her my December shawty because she's so cold / She make my nose run, so I guess I gotta blow," is from T-Pulse, who I produced.
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** I don't have any similarities. I'm completely original. No one's on my level.
› **Hood Represented:** This is Fort Wayne.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** [Dean of students] Kintz, so I could hear him spit some of his policies.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Forever.
Pictured above.

DAN "D-MONEY" VANDEVEER (11)

› **Major Influences:** I try not to be influenced by anyone, but maybe Eminem.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "Like Ray Allen, I'mma release the trey."
› **Biggest Similarity To a Mainstream Rapper:** I would compare myself to Eminem because of my rhyming ability and unique flow.
› **Hood Represented:** Homestead throwing team.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** Drake, T.I., Lil' Wayne, or anyone else. I'll rap with anyone that wants to rap with me, basically. So, professional emcees: Get at me.
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Alive.
Pictured above on the left.

LONN "L. MEYER" MEYER (11)

› **Major Influences:** D-Money, better known as Dan Vandeveer.
› **Favorite Quote From Your Music:** "Protein, creatine, Ovaltine / You know what I mean."
› **Hood Represented:** A large lacrosse hoodie. I occasionally rock a Colts hoodie also.
› **Teacher or Student You Would Most Like to Record a Collaboration With:** I would be down [for] rocking a collaboration with Young Money Andrew Sarkisian (11) aka "Bumpkin."
› **"Hip hop is..."**: Great part of a nutritious breakfast.
Pictured above on the right.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECH

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Abhishek Chintapalli (12) is recovering from a sudden collapse during his first-period AP Biology class. 2A

LIFE
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ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net.

www.thespartana.net | A 2009 NSPA Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Nine artists selected to compete in regional contest

Drawings, jewelry, paintings among student work recognized as superior by judges panel

By Amanda Arnold
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Though fine arts often go underappreciated, nine talented Homestead students recently received Scholastic Art awards to recognize their hard work and dedication to the visual arts.

Through Homestead's art department, students were able to submit drawings, paintings, jewelry and photography to compete in the regional Scholastic Art and Writing competition. Homestead competes in Indiana's northeast region, and while the region contains no major cities, it has beaten the regions containing Chicago, New York City and San Francisco in previous years.

All works of art are judged by a panel of three judges for a mere five seconds, solely giving the judges enough time to notice the big picture. For students with exemplary pieces of art, Gold Keys are awarded, followed by Silver Keys and Certificates. However, the majority of participants receive no sort of acknowledgement, revealing the integrity of the awards.

"Scholastics in particular are really trying to emphasize student voice, so that's one of the number one criteria," art club advisor Sarah Jones said. "[The judges] pick pieces that show who [the person] is as an artist."

Founded in 1923, the Scholastic Corporation has awarded students for their accomplishments in writing and art for nearly a century. While the Scholastic Art and Writing awards are not commonly known to people outside of the liberal arts community, famous artists and writers such as Sylvia Plath, Andy Warhol and Joyce Carol Oates have been recognized by the Scholastic Corporation.

Out of nearly 50 students that entered the competition from Homestead, Tori Boester, Michael Buchanan, Adam Gayer, Caitlin McComb, Megan Procise, Eric Shideler, Emeri Taivalkoski and Susan Tsai were identified as unique and talented by the Scholastic Corporation. Each student's artwork will be placed on display at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art on March 13.

"I submitted a layered photograph and got a Silver Key," Caitlin McComb (12) said. "My print was actually an accident because my film wasn't working and my camera took two shots on one frame, but it turned out looking pretty cool."

While the achievement of any award is an honor, the few that received the highest honor of a Gold

SEE 'SCHOLASTICS,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Adam Gayer (11) entered paintings into the regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competitions.

DOUBLE or NOTHING

Students granted back-to-back cancellations

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

With the winter weather surrounding the Midwest and a storm moving over the East Coast, students jump for joy when the word "snow" is mentioned, often in anticipation of a delay or cancellation. The latest major snowstorm covered the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast. As snow plows scrambled to clean roads, delays and cancellations were announced left and right as a result of the snowstorm.

This week, Southwest Allen County Schools closed on Tuesday, Feb. 9 and Wednesday, Feb. 10. Closing school two days in a row is rare, but administrators at the district office believed the two days off were in the best interest of safety following the snow storm this week.

Though SACS transportation director Ike Doll was unavailable to comment on the roads during the snowfall, the dangerous state of the roads became apparent to many student drivers as they tried to traverse the roads on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The days off were anticipated by many students after talk of a possible delay or closing buzzed through the school on Monday. After students went home, Facebook and Twitter were on fire with talk delays and closings.

"The way I learned about the delay is actually through a text from Indiana* Newscenter," Sahand Emamian (10), said. "You sign up for it to tell you what cancellations and delays there are in your county.

In addition to the television and the radio, a recent page was created on Facebook called the Benjicast, where student Ben Griffith (11) posts predictions based on his interpretation of the weather. He often correctly guesses the administrators' calls.

"I created the Benjicast in early December, a couple days after that morning where all the roads froze over after the delay deadline had passed," Griffith said. "I occasionally posted predictions in my status updates and one day a friend of mine suggested that I make a page for it. In the past, I think [administrators] had a couple bad calls, but recently they have been doing a pretty good job. I guess I can't really

SEE 'WINTER WEATHER,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Teachers' union rejects proposal

Asher: District will not vie for Race to the Top money

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

A memorandum was proposed recently to Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) to encourage the district to agree to receive Race to the Top funding. Both the teacher's union and SACS shot it down, but with good reason.

Race to the Top is a federal program which provides money to states and school districts who agree to adopt standards and assessments set by the state. The program also recruits and rewards effective teachers to achieve positive education reform.

According to the program's official website, awards in Race to the Top will go to states that "are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform."

While the Race to the Top program has noble intentions, to Jon Baker, president of the teachers' union, and Joe Asher, vice-president of the teachers' union, the decision to walk away from the money was obvious.

"The problem with Race to the Top is that it is a federal program that's trying to improve education, but because it wasn't completely in its final form, teachers were unsure of what would be required of them," Asher said. "Teachers would have to link test scores to their own evaluations, which many thought was unfair."

The teacher's union believes that Race to the Top was not a program designed for SACS. Race

SEE 'RACE TO THE TOP,' PAGE 2A

Show choir looks forward to future competitions

Class Royale, Elite move past early disappointment after lengthy preparation

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Class Royale and Elite, Homestead High School's show choirs, have been preparing their shows since the beginning of the school year and are now beginning their season with their first competition at Northrop High School last Saturday, February 6th. While they didn't place as well as they had hoped, both Class Royale and Elite are hoping to improve as they get further into the season.

Class Royale and Elite both placed seventh at their first competition last weekend. The show choirs could not participate in the finals, however, because only those ranked sixth place and up are sent to the final round.

Members of Class Royale and Elite are hopeful that placement in further competitions will improve, and that the show choirs will have a good upcoming season.

"I think we'll do really well. We have a good group this year," elite member Erica Olivero (10) said.

Director Curtis Shaw says that the show choirs are both looking forward to the upcoming show choir season.

"It's anticipation now. [The show choirs] have been working since October," Shaw said. "[We want] to get in front of the judges and audience and see how we do."

While show choirs often perform old favorites, but this both choirs shows' include current popular music. Songs performed during Class Royale's show include recent hits such as Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" and "Just Dance," as well as Brittany Spear's "Toxic." Songs performed during Elite's show include Beyonce's "Halo," Jordin

SEE 'SHOW CHOIR,' PAGE 2A

Right: Carson Royer (12) performs a solo during Class Royale's song "Higher Ground" at Cabaret Night.

SET LISTS

CLASS ROYALE

- "Poker Face / Just Dance"
- "Toxic"
- "Baby I Love your Way"
- "It's About That Walk"
- "Higher Ground"
- "Groove Is In the Heart"

ELITE

- "No Air/Halo"
- "Greatest Dancer"
- "Nothing Compares To You"
- "Buenos Aires"
- "Please Don't Stop The Music"

BRIEFS

SOFTBALL MANAGERS NEEDED
The varsity softball team is seeking two student managers for its upcoming spring season. Candidates for the positions must be able to attend all home and away games and be present at practices after school.

DIRTY DUCKERS SIGN UP
Student government will begin sign-ups for the annual Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament during lunch on Feb. 15. Sign ups will run through lunch on Feb 19. Teams consist of six players and two coaches. Space is limited.

VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS
Auditions for the Variety Show will be held Feb. 16 and 17 after school. Sign up in the backroom during lunch. Time slots will be given on a first-come-first-serve basis.

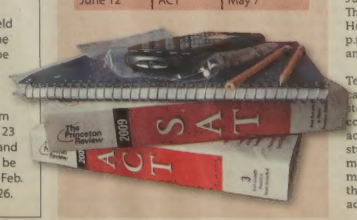
SPRING MUSICAL TRYOUTS
A sign-up sheet is posted outside of room 404 for spring musical auditions on Feb. 23 and 24. Sign-ups are for a cold reading and song performance; both auditions must be on the same night. Call-backs will be on Feb. 25. The final cast will be posted on Feb. 26.

SAT, ACT classes prepare students for testing day

Standardized test scores used by colleges, universities for admission

UPCOMING EXAMS

Date	Test	Registration Deadline
April 10	ACT	March 5
May 1	SAT	March 31
June 5	SAT	May 5
June 12	ACT	May 7



By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Homestead will offer an SAT and ACT prep class to equip students effectively for standardized tests. The class will take place two nights per week. Verbal preparation will be taught by English teacher Howard Jankowski on Wednesdays, and math preparation will be taught by math teacher Junior Stailey on Thursdays. The classes will take place at Homestead from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and will begin March 17 and end April 29.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) are standardized tests used by colleges and universities across the nation to gage a student's readiness for higher education. Because many colleges look heavily at these scores for admission, many students feel the pressure to raise their scores to give themselves an advantage in admission competition. As the difficulties of being admitted into a good school prevail, students hope to have every advantage that they can get.

As the old adage goes, practice makes perfect, and students who worry about their test scores believe that by taking prep classes such as the one at Homestead, they can raise their scores.

According to Jankowski, most of the time in the prep classes is spent taking practice tests and going over answers.

"It's an advantage because students can really understand why they're missing certain questions as opposed to just seeing how many they missed," Jankowski said. "They can ask questions about it and gain a greater understanding."

This method suggests that taking the test multiple times gives students an advantage. However, the College Board, who administers the SAT, states on their website that "...there is no evidence that taking the SAT

> "It's an advantage because students can really understand why they're missing certain questions as opposed to just seeing how many they missed."
>
> **HOWARD JANKOWSKI**
> *SAT Verbal Preparation Instructor*

SEE 'PREP CLASSES,' PAGE 2A

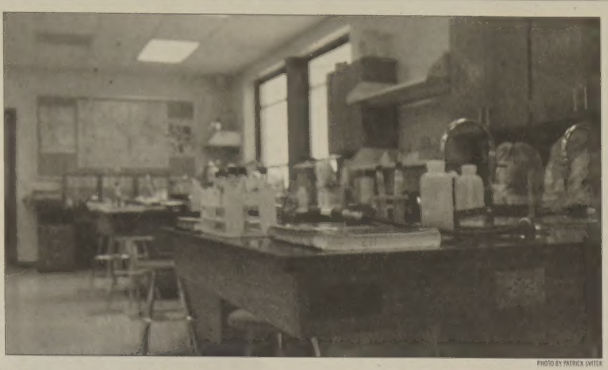


PHOTO BY PATRICK SVITEK

Room 213, where Bekki Vail teaches AP Biology and Microbiology was the site of Abhishek Chintapalli's (12) sudden collapse during first period. Vail reacted to the shock by immediately sending two students to the school nurse and dialing 911. Moments later, Joe Meier, a school custodian, rushed to the classroom with an automatic external defibrillator (AED) to try to revive an unconscious Chintapalli. Staff at Lutheran Hospital believe his life was saved by the defibrillator used by Meier.

Student's life saved by quick thinking, proper protocol

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Quick thinking and proper protocol may have saved a student's life after an incident that left the student in intensive care.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, while working on a lab assignment in Bekki Vail's first-period AP Biology class, Abhishek Chintapalli (12) collapsed. Vail realized the situation might be serious and decided to take action.

"I sent two students to get the school nurse and called 911," Vail said.

Joe Meier, one of the school's custodians, heard about the incident over the walkie talkie system and quickly brought an AED, or automatic external defibrillator, to the classroom. The staff at Lutheran Hospital believe that the defibrillator may have saved Chintapalli's life.

For every minute a person having a cardiac event goes untreated, their chance of survival drops 10 percent, according to the American Red Cross.

"The response time between when my heart stopped and the janitor came with the AED was extremely quick and if it weren't for that, it is very likely that I would have died," Chintapalli said.

> "The response time between when my heart stopped and the janitor came with the AED was extremely quick and if it weren't for that, it is very likely that I would have died."
>
> **ABHISHEK CHINTAPALLI (12)**
> *Collapsed During Biology Class*

The paramedics arrived after he was defibrillated. Chintapalli was then put on a gurney to be taken down from the classroom on the second story to the ambulance.

"The school held students in their first period classes to keep the hallways clear," Vail said.

The paramedics attempted to take the gurney downstairs using the elevator, but they quickly discovered that the gurney did not fit and carried it down the stairs.

"Thanks to swift action by teachers, other faculty and paramedics, Abhishek was rushed to Lutheran Hospital," Ravi Vemula said.

Vemula is Chintapalli's friend and has been in contact with him since the incident.

"It goes without saying that the school handled the incident extremely well," Chintapalli said.

Following the incident on Thursday, rumors about Chintapalli's spread around Homestead. One rumor reflected in Facebook wall posts went as far as to state he had died.

"Right now I'm doing fine," Chintapalli said. "I'm just recovering from some minor surgery."

Shortly after he regained consciousness on Friday, two Homestead administrators visited the hospital to check on his condition. Currently, he is out of the hospital and at home. He said that he plans to personally thank all of the faculty members involved in the incident when he returns to school.

"I'm beyond grateful to my [biology] teacher, Mrs. Vail, for acting quickly and calmly after I fainted. I also want to specifically thank the school janitor that got my heart going again," Chintapalli said.

▸▸WINTER WEATHER CONTINUED FROM 1A

criticize them too much. After all, they drive the roads at three in the morning and I sit inside predicting in front of a computer."

The days off have given students and faculty members a little unplanned free time, and few students are complaining. Many students brought out their inner child, pulled out their snow pants and went outside to sled. In anticipation of the snowfall, the ecology class was even offered extra credit on Monday if they would make an igloo.

As a result of the snowstorm, even administrators at the notoriously hard-to-close Canterbury announced a cancellation for the school on Tuesday. It was the school's first cancellation of the year aside from one in January, which a Canterbury family had "bought" in the school's annual fundraising event, the Laughing Cavalier, last year. Terrible road conditions forced the school to announce a rare cancellation early Tuesday morning and a delay on Wednesday morning.

"Very few students ride school buses, so the school buses don't have to travel far or very long to pick up students," Minali Aggarwal, a Canterbury student, said. "Also, at Canterbury, the teachers plan lessons and labs and tests months in advance, so there really is no room to miss a day here and there in the schedules if we have to get all material covered by the end of the year. However, I would love to have more cancellations and delays, especially because third quarter is so long and difficult compared to the rest of the year."

Though the upcoming weeks call for more snow, there are serious doubts that any upcoming mid-February snowfall will match the magnitude of this past week's snowfall. However, students will continue to hold the hope of more delays and possibly even another snow day.

▸▸SCHOLASTICS CONTINUED FROM 1A

Key will have their artwork sent to New York City to compete at the national level.

Among the recipients of Gold Keys, Michael Buchanan (12) astonished the judges with his unique style and variety. Buchanan received two Gold Keys for drawings, one for painting and one for his overall portfolio. His work will advance to the national level.

"Last year, I entered five pieces and only one was awarded a silver key, so I was pretty surprised this year," Buchanan said. "If I do well at nationals and win some scholarship money, I'll reconsider what college I'm going to go to. As of now, I'm going to IU's school of art."

> "There's usually more of an emphasis on academic awards and athletic awards, and arts are overlooked at times."
>
> **SARAH JONES**
> *Art Club Adviser*

While the Scholastic Art and Writing awards are prestigious, winners are not often recognized outside of the art community or studio classrooms at the school.

"It's one of those things you don't hear about on the radio or the TV," Jones said. "There's usually more of an emphasis on academic awards and athletic awards, and arts are overlooked at times."

▸▸RACE TO THE TOP CONTINUED FROM 1A

to the Top distributes money to favor school districts with high percentages of at-risk students. While SACS does have at-risk students that struggle with poverty, the percentage out of the entire student body is relatively small, and many students would not experience the benefits of the Race to the Top money.

Were SACS to receive Race to the Top funding, the district would acquire a total of 61,000 dollars, which would be divided to about nine dollars per students. Effectively, this small amount of money would do little to nothing to improve the school district drastically, and the power of the district would shift dramatically to the state government.

Baker and Asher, along with Dr. Steve Yager, SACS's superintendent, did not wish to sign a memorandum that did not yet exist in its entirety.

"Yager had said initially that we will submit the forms, but withdraw them by the April deadline," Baker said. "As you read through [the memorandum], you have to agree to Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2. There was no Exhibit 2. They hadn't released it yet. So we had to sign something that we had no idea what it would say."

Stipulations for the Race to the Top funding were vague at best. The benefits included, however, was very constricting. Teachers and administrators would be evaluated once a year by the state, and as Jaeger commented, SACS does not have enough staff members to conduct the evaluations. Therefore, everything would be signed over to the state.

The district and the teacher's union decided that the funding plan did not make much sense for Southwest Allen County Schools. To an outside eye, the denial of the plan may not be a very smart decision, but after further scrutiny, it is unlikely that nine dollars per student is worth being dictated by the state.

▸▸PREP CLASSES CONTINUED FROM 1A

multiple times significantly changes [a student's] score."

While this might be the case for students who roll out of bed on a Saturday morning for the official SAT, many students who have taken the prep class feel as though they are more prepared.

"I most definitely see a change in kids from the beginning to the end of the course," Jankowski said.

Maggie Kitch (11), who took both the verbal and the math course at Homestead last semester with a small group of other students, also believes that the class gave her an advantage.

"I know how to pace myself, and I've gone over all of my weaknesses," Kitch said.

If there is a correlation with a prep class and a higher score, however, then it stands to reason that charging money for these classes gives those who can afford them an unfair advantage. When the test alone costs 45 dollars, spending hundreds on tutoring is out of the question for some students.

The fees for the classes at Homestead are $90 for either verbal or math or $170 for both classes. Checks must be received by March 11 as confirmation of enrollment.

When money cannot be spent on prep classes for some students but can be doled out for other students, the obvious question of fairness and equality in public education is raised. Does having money give some students a competitive edge? The short answer is yes. According to act.org, only 30 percent of low-income students score above the national average for the ACT. Countless other statistics on low-income students and lower test scores also show the correlation between the two.

However, do students at Homestead who may not be able to afford these classes have a significant disadvantage? This is not quite the case. These tests were originally designed to measure what has been learned in the classroom, and therefore, the education received in the classroom should prepare students to achieve average to above-average scores.

"I took etymology to help with the verbal portion and did some free math review online," Blake Smith (12) said. "I didn't do anything special and I ended up doing just fine."

Even so, in order to score to a student's potential, a little practice goes a long way.

"I'd recommend taking the class to any student," Jankowski said.

▸▸SHOW CHOIR CONTINUED FROM 1A

Spark's "No Air," and Rihanna's "Please Don't Stop the Music."

"A lot of the music for Class Royale is more upbeat...On the other hand, I find the music for Elite to be more lyrical..." elite member Sarah Kerscher (10) said.

To prepare for their competitions, the show choirs practice two days a week, three hours per practice. Practice will usually start with Zumba, a dance-like warm-up exercise, and are led by senior members of the show choir. Then, the show choirs will work on cleaning up choreography. At the end of each practice, the show choir gets together in a huddle and chants.

"We end with a huddle to get us pumped... and so we leave in a positive manner," Ashley Evans (12) said. "It's fun to do."

Shaw says that despite the difficulties in coming together and putting on a good show, the show choirs both work hard during practice.

"Some days are tedious," Shaw said, "But [the show choirs] know that that's what it takes to have a good group."

Although the first competition did not go as well as planned, the show choirs are still hopeful for better performances to come.

Shaw said: "We didn't place as highly as we had wanted... [But] we learned a lot and the kids had fun."

Tomorrow, both show choirs will be competing at Norwell High School. Future competitions Ben Davis, Bellmont, Carroll, and Homestead's Showcase every Saturday in the following weeks.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Class Royale members Courtney Blosser (12) and Taylor Stock (11) perform during show choir's Cabaret Night, which is hosted to raise funds for the school's two choirs. Both singers maintain a weekly schedule of two three-hours practices, complete with Zumba, a dance-like warm-up.

Winter festival held statewide benefits local charities

Special Olympics to benefit from students, teachers at Polar Plunge

By Nathan Berning
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The cold weather continues relentlessly this February, a month in which almost no one would choose to swim outdoors. For precisely this reason, though, February is chosen each year to be Polar Plunge month in Indiana. The Polar Plunge is a winter festival that takes place throughout the state each year. Participants can go swimming in various lakes in the winter weather to benefit local charities.

The 2010 Polar Plunge will benefit the Indiana Special Olympics. Students and teachers at Homestead plan to participate in Fort Wayne's own city branch of the event.

"I think it is a great idea because all of the money raised at the event will fund the Indiana Special Olympics teams," Brett Gauger (11) said.

The Polar Plunge posters throughout Homestead encourage students to "Be a Fan." Many Homestead students are already fans of the Special Olympics, and the cause hits particularly close to home because several special needs students from Homestead will be Special Olympics participants this year.

"I plan on attending the event because I love jumping into freezing waters for a cause," Tyler Stephens (11) said. Students such as Stephens will attend the event at Mirror Lake on the University of Saint Francis campus. The event will take place Feb. 13, the day before Valentine's Day. Registration will begin at 10:30 am on the morning of the event.

"The Polar Plunge benefits the Special Olympics throughout Indiana, not only in Fort Wayne, so it would be beneficial for the Special Olympics if a lot of people were involved," Ayesha Syed (11) said.

Because the event is state-wide, it is funded by many companies, including Great Clips, AT&T and Taco Bell. The support of these companies helps to make the event possible.

Homestead's Key Club has promoted the Special Olympics throughout the school and has posted flyers around the building to advertise the events. The flyers provide information about the event, including a phone number for more information and the address to the fundraiser website. Interested students may call 260-403-2005 or visit www.soindia.org to learn more about how they can contribute to the charitable cause.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: Albert "Al" Jennings is coming back to Homestead to continue his golfing career.

Status: True. Though executive editor Derek Luttrell might think he's out for the New Year, the seemingly ever-present Jennings is officially coming back from Florida – for good this time. Jennings left Fort Wayne for Daytona, Fla., last August to pursue improving his golf game. After five months without the prominent would-be senior, and many misconceived myths of his return, his final flight back to Fort Wayne comes in next Monday, Feb. 15.

"I'm coming back now because I'm done with everything I came to Florida to do," Jennings said. "I've been playing competitive golf for almost a year straight."

After a year away, Jennings is ready to return to Fort Wayne to be closer to his friends and family.

"I'm tired and miss my family," Jennings said. "So I'm going take some time off and start training again when it gets warm in late March."

Jennings plans to come back and officially enroll as a student at Homestead and finish off his senior year here. – *Carrie Cummiskey*

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

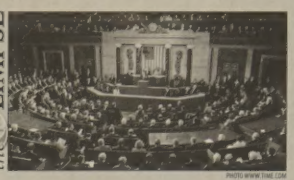
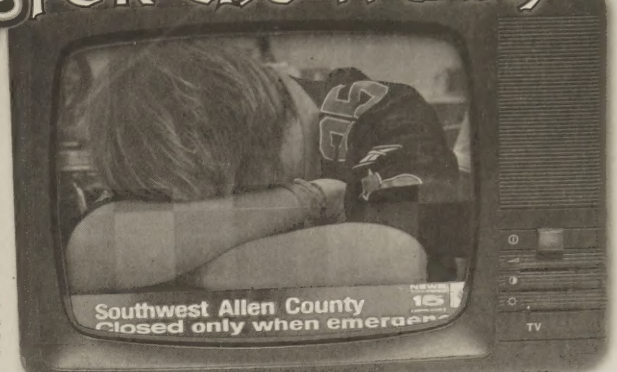


PHOTO: WWW.THE.COM

President Barack Obama addressed Congress Jan. 27, stressing political reconciliation among a legislature sharply divided by health care reform debates and Republican claims of reckless government spending. Two days after his speech, Obama traveled to Baltimore, Md., to appeal to the Republican caucus for objective clarification on key issues. At the site, the president called out the GOP for vilifying his health care bill and offering no greater solutions.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

NO REST FOR THE WEARY



Russell Smascz (9) enjoys some mid-class shut-eye the morning after the New Orleans Saints surged past the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 to win Super Bowl XLIV. State Superintendent Tony Bennett declared days before the football championship that two-hour delays are "reserved for emergency situations," erasing any hopes of a post-game sleep-in on Feb. 8.

Instead of the previously planned two-hour delay for Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) on Monday due to Super Bowl excitement the night before, students received a one-hour delay and a 30-minute extension to the school day. Some might call State Superintendent Tony Bennett a killjoy for refusing to issue a waiver for Indy's public schools – which would have allowed for a two-hour delay – but as he stated, "While we support the Colts, two-hour delays are reserved for emergency situations."

Said IPS Superintendent Eugene White, "We're just trying to be safe. The Super Bowl is a big deal." In 2007, when the Colts last played, Indianapolis schools had to be canceled altogether when numerous bus drivers called in sick. This year, however, bus drivers told White they would be at work, on time, regardless of when school would start. Such commitment negates the need for a delay at all. Still, the one-hour, late dismissal compromise has its merits, for it meets a full school day's time requirement.

Fortunate Fort Wayne Community School students, due to serendipitous parent-teacher conferences, enjoyed the day off anyway. Homestead, on the other hand, had a normal full day. Given that the Super Bowl did not run too late, and that it is unlikely that many students stayed up into the wee hours, our lack of delay was completely justified. While private schools are perfectly within their rights to have delays and cancellations for the Super Bowl, as many did, public schools have the responsibility to put education first.

THE ED BOARD
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Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *The Colts' Super Bowl showing doesn't deserve any type of school delay.*

PHOTO BY BEN MORSELL | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK SVITEK

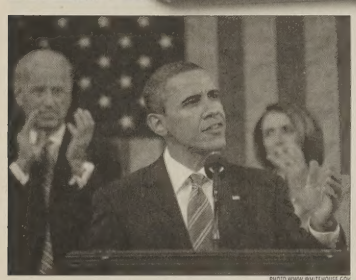

PHOTO: WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV

President Barack Obama addresses the joint session of Congress Jan. 27, flanked by Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In his speech, the president re-emphasized his administration's focus on the ailing economy and urged congressional lawmakers to "not walk away" from bipartisan efforts to reform the health care industry.

Stubborn GOP deserves Obama's steely rhetoric

State of the Union speech ignores social issues to plead for bipartisanship among political factions

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

As Seth Myers jokingly stated, Republicans engaging in a nationally televised forum with arguably the most intelligent presidential debater of all time was akin to "seeing how tough Aquaman will be when we get him in the water." In Obama's state of the union address, much the same occurred; he flourished in the exposure of his natural habitat, and he did so effortlessly.

Obama proposed a phenomenal initiative in which the $30 million repaid from Wall Street bailouts would be distributed to community banks to ensure that small business will be able to procure investments and loans. Too long has the government focused on corporations, and this proposal seeks to rectify that by supporting the common man.

If Obama's speech lacked anything, social issues seemed decisively neglected; while the rallies rage on, bills regarding recent controversies are anything but forthcoming. Obama's liberal stances on abortion, same-sex marriage, and euthanasia are no secret, but Congress can only stagnate upon the natural rights of the American people for so long. Obama is nothing if not relentless about passing laws, and now is the time to put movement behind a future uninhibited by oppressive policies.

It is also somewhat disheartening to see funds rescinded from NASA; doing so is indeed the logical and practical course of action, but it is nonetheless disappointing. With the end of the Bush administration, it was promising that science and technology would no longer suffer demoralizing setbacks akin to his appallingly asinine veto of the stem cell research bill, but it seems that, although circumstances have changed, the conclusion has not. Whereas the president was previously held accountable for hindering scientific progress, the blame can now be laid upon the state of the times.

Obama remained adamant concerning the need for health care reform. Whatever one's opinion of the president, it is impossible not to credit him for his persistence. Private industry is inefficient and backward; the Obama plan will provide for those who for years have been villainized and excluded by penny-pinching insurance companies. It's high time for providers to cover more than their own mistakes.

> "Republicans made a mess of the nation, and when Obama was elected, they expected him to clean it up, only now they hover over his shoulder and complain that he isn't cleaning up the mess quickly enough. Change won't be easy and it won't be imminent, but it's coming."
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Life Editor*

Obama also addressed something crying to be said; change is a process. Republicans made a mess of the nation, and when Obama was elected, they expected him to clean it up, only now they hover over his shoulder and complain that he isn't cleaning up the mess quickly enough. Change won't be easy and it won't be imminent, but it's coming.

Obama called for bipartisanship. Regardless of how many Republicans reach across the aisle and how many remain with their heads firmly buried in the sand, change is coming, and it won't stop because of the resistance of narrow-minded conservatives who wish solely to go backwards.

Supreme Court ruling betrays promises of First Amendment

By Kirsten Overdahl
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

Americans were brought back to the reality of their fragile First Amendment rights on Jan. 21, when the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 vote to overturn the McCain-Feingold reforms of 2002 and to allow corporations to give unlimited financial donations to political campaigns. The decision raised cries of "hypocrisy," "abuse" and "corruption" in political discourse and pervasive uneasiness both in and out of Washington, D.C.

The Supreme Court's ruling has created a solid fence between two opinions. On one hand, the five-member Court majority holds that unlimited corporate donations are part of the First Amendment right to free speech, and to hinder these contributions is to restrain their unenumerated right of expression. On the other hand, the four-member dissenting party cries foul and argues that unlimited campaign dollars will create an unchecked license for corporations to gain monetary power and thus to forcefully influence voter decisions. In short, companies will control public opinion.

The arguments for each side are polar and hardly leave room to sit on the fence. However, both raise questions that should concern everyone. Does campaign finance reform protect or curtail individual rights? Do the same rights apply to funded corporations as to individual rights? To what extent should regulations play a role in preventing funding from regulating citizen opinions? Who are the true hypocrites, if anyone?

Jonathan Alter of Newsweek magazine stated in his Feb. 1 article that "[those] who grew up depending on courts to protect the public interest must now build a mass movement to confront the greatest accumulation of corporate power since the age of the robber barons." He continued to say that the money game the Court is now allowing corporations to play will be a source for great corruption and abuse of power. Alter expressed faith in Senator Dick Durbin's campaign-reform bill, which would reward political candidates for attracting small donors.

Alter referenced Thomas Jefferson, who said, "I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations." However, does Jefferson not refer to the money game in its entirety? Dick Durbin's plan may be a noble effort to prevent corruption, but is it not still actively engaging in the money game? Is the best option really to reward even small fundraising? Money cannot be removed from politics, an truth citizens must be aware of.

The most alarming issue is that of regulation versus being regulated. Regulations ensure that the widely-feared "fat cat" corporations cannot tread on individual rights, but too many regulations make the exercise of First Amendment rights next to impossible. With the Supreme Court decision dictating the course the country will now follow, ears must be barred against mud-slung accusations of hypocrisy in order to see accurately the possible avenues for corruption and abuse.

The greatest danger now facing citizens is the ease with which people slip into unawareness. While they are an integral part of the functioning of this nation, essential rights can and will be abused if they are not continually monitored.

STUMP CHANGE

"Indeed, to exclude or impede corporate speech is to muzzle the principal agents of the modern free economy."

JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA
Concurring Opinion

"In the context of election to public office, the distinction between corporate and human speakers is significant."

JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS
Dissenting Opinion

PHOTOS: WWW.OURCOURTS.ORG | SOURCE: WWW.LEAGLE.COM

Spiteful abortion doctor slayings driven by misconceptions about debated procedures

Death of George Tiller a disquieting reminder of pro-life vengeance

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

Last year, on May 31, a Sunday morning, Scott Roeder ambled into Wichita's Reformation Lutheran Church. George Tiller stood in the foyer, handing out service bulletins to incoming parishioners.

Roeder slew him with a single bullet from his .22-caliber handgun. Those who sought to help Tiller were warded off with a wave of the weapon, after which Roeder proceeded to drive away from the scene of the crime in his powder-blue Taurus and stop for gas and pizza. "I was hungry," said Roeder during his trial. And as for Tiller? "I did what I thought was needed to be done to protect the children. I shot him," Roeder reported coolly.

George Tiller was one of only a few brave enough to perform late-term abortions. His clinic was bombed in 1985. Both of his arms were shot by a protester in 1993. Tiller's clinic, Women's Health Care Services (which was shut down after his murder), was an indomitable fortress, leading to Roeder's decision to murder him in God's house – it was, perhaps, the only place Tiller was vulnerable.

At 24 weeks a fetus is generally considered to be viable; abortions usually are not provided past 20 weeks. And yet, despite the venom of anti-abortion activists, Tiller provided abortions past 24 weeks "in extreme cases of risk to the woman's life."

LeRoy Carhart is similar to Tiller, a high-profile target – he provides late term abortions in Nebraska, and made a five hour trip to Tiller's clinic to help out every third Sunday. His barn was burned – killing 17 horses – and he has frequently received death threats. Carhart has remained undaunted, just like his close friend Tiller was, with fat block letters announcing his Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, a mere 1.3 percent of abortions occur past the 21st week. Once the fetus is viable, a doctor will perform an abortion only if a woman's life is in extreme danger – for example, Carhart assisted a severely suicidal rape victim but turned away a woman who would put her baby up for adoption if it was born.

> **37**
> minutes were spent deliberating before the jury found Scott Roeder guilty of first-degree murder and two counts of aggravated assault in the death of abortion doctor George Tiller.

"You are taking the life of the innocent, you are punishing the innocent life for the sin of the father, two wrongs don't make a right." Such is Scott Roeder's opinion on abortion in the case of rape – but his entire defense argument rested on this premise.

People hold many misconceptions about abortions. I remember middle school friends citing the use of hangers and flaming pillowcases, all the more reason for legitimate medical practices. Carhart can recall, in a time before Roe, the deaths of at least five women a week at a clinic when women came in with messy abortion attempts. And then we have partial-birth abortions, now outlawed. Scott Roeder rambled of "partial birth abortion, forceps tearing the baby limb from limb," a statement that couldn't be more false. When lawful, this severely rare procedure was used only when it was the best option for minimizing risk to the woman.

So did Tiller commit a "wrong?" He is remembered as loving husband, father, and grandfather. His career included abortion – only one small facet of his being. To him, it was a legitimate medical practice, not a political battle. Yet Scott Roeder believes that murdering Tiller righted the supposed "wrongs" of his lawful career. Tiller the baby killer has been eliminated.

For a voluntary manslaughter defense in Kansas, a person must hold an "unreasonable but honest belief" that use of force was necessary to prevent the threat of unlawful, imminent action causing harm.

Judge Wilbert rightfully denied the defense's request to give the jury the option of voluntary manslaughter (abortions are not unlawful) on the first day of the trial, Jan. 28. After only 37 minutes spent deliberating, the jury found Roeder guilty of first-degree murder and two counts of aggravated assault.

Carhart now offers late-term abortions at his clinic (previously, he only assisted at Tiller's clinic). He has begun training two interested physicians in abortion and is planning a late-term clinic, as Tiller's has closed. 1990s anti-abortion violence led many abortion providers to reconsider; Carhart stands firm.

In an interview, he references a quote from the sage Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?"

George Tiller faced these questions every day. And now LeRoy Carhart has inherited his responsibility.

the facebook crawl

Derek Luttrell

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "What horrific cultural aberration caused the blizzard?"

Allie Stanley ▸ "Vienna from 'The Bachelor.'"
Courtney Blosser ▸ "Curtis Smith's nappy beard."
Juan Guzman ▸ "Obama."
Chris Blake ▸ "Mrs. Luttrell."
Taylor Lamphier ▸ "Sebastian Meintel."
Joey DeRosa ▸ "Al Gore."
Brian Landrigan ▸ "The Colts."
Tom Ault ▸ "Hurricane Katrina."
Morgan Zirzow ▸ "Greg [Zirzow]."
Deavin Eviston ▸ "Blame it on the alcohol... or Hillary Clinton."

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO | WWW.TIPPYTOESFILES.WORDPRESS.COM

Award show season has always been something that has attracted mass amounts of diverse viewers. This year proves to be no different. Something about the shows brings continually brings those types of people to the couch on the selected Sunday evenings to be taken into the celebrity world of red carpet couture fashion, anticipation of major awards and the thrill of winning. Of course, the most anxiously awaited event is the March 17 Academy Awards.

Technology triggers students' inactivity

In recent years, technology has been a blessing to our society in more ways than one. Phenomenal leaps have been made in the field of medicine with developments in artificial body parts and new methods of treating common ailments. Technology has not only been life saving, but has also been life altering by saving the time, energy and money of those fortunate enough to posses the latest gadget. But at what cost?

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) have been available to the general public since the turn of the 21st century and have made traveling more convenient and less time consuming. At the same time, however, GPS has brought about two disconcerting side effects. People no longer see any value in an atlas or city map. Because it is no longer necessary to plan out a route using street grids and mile markers, there seems to be no need to learn how to use such an outdated tool. It would be similar to using an abacus to do math homework.

TEN ITEMS OR LESS

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Similarly, there is a subsequent lack of adventure for youthful drivers. No longer do we find joy in purposefully getting lost in an unfamiliar area to try to find our way out. We would rather stick with what is safe; we would rather be told "turn left here" than figure out which cardinal direction to follow through trial and error. Essentially, there's no desire to commit something new to memory that can be easily accessed every time it is needed; we have no desire to learn.

Not only can this lack of curiosity be seen in our driving patterns, but also in our attitudes toward school. We no longer view school as an opportunity to challenge our minds or educate ourselves. Instead, school is solely a daily penitentiary that swallows a quarter of each weekday. We have no interest in what we are being taught and would much rather be spending time with friends, checking our respective Facebooks, or participating in any number of menial tasks that, more likely than not, revolve around some form of technology.

What is worse than our lack of participation in the school day is our lack of commitment to our studies after the day is done. If assigned a research paper, Wikipedia and a host of other websites provide the information necessary to complete the task. The internet and its vast amount of knowledge is really a paradox in our generation. We have access to knowledge on any subject simply by a few clicks on a keyboard, but rather than use this tool to further our cognitive function, we waste our time on textsfromlastnight.com or Farmville.

So while technology may be responsible for significant advancement in our society, it is tough to say whether or not technological advancement can really be described as progress. On one hand, most any task can be done more efficiently than ever before, but at the sacrifice of our minds. We no longer challenge ourselves to think critically to find the answer to a problem. What is more appalling than this problem is the positive response it has received. It is okay to be stupid so long as it is efficient. While Timothy Leary's signature catch phrase held a whole different meaning to the counterculture of the 1960's, it's quite possible the phrase can mount a comeback in the very near future if it is interpreted differently.

Romance in the Hallways

Students in relationships show affection in picturesque manners

BY ALEX BARNARD
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Romance, a word not often thought of when one thinks of the average high school relationship, is something that can be defined in many ways. Because of the numerous breeds of couples in high school, romance is not frequent for some, but for others is very common.

Romance is something that some find hard to define, because for those people it is all just an illusion.

"Romance is when you can flirt and still be yourself, otherwise I think it's just a façade," Valerie Parker (11) said.

The dictionary defines romance as a romantic spirit, sentiment, emotion or desire, but for some, it can be something much simpler than that.

"[It's] the feeling of being your happiest without having to change who you are for the person you are with," Ross Kibby (12) said.

As most relationships begin, many times boys will commit very extravagant romantic acts for their significant other.

Parker explained how Kibby secretly decorated her room with dozens of rose petals to ask her to the semiformal dance.

"This stands out to me as one of the most romantic things he has ever done because he wasn't trying to impress anyone else; instead it was just very personal and sweet," Parker recalls.

When it comes to romance, things like flowers, whether roses or tulips or daisies, and candlelit dinners are among the most common things that come to mind. However, sometimes a simple gesture is all it takes.

"You have to keep it fun; you have to mix it up so it's not always the same," Nathan Haines (10) said.

A new activity on a date can make all the difference. Rather than just doing the same old dinner and a movie, finding a new restaurant or simply cooking dinner rather than eating out can always add a new element of romance.

> "Great boyfriends will go out of their way to make sure their girlfriends have all of their romantic dreams come true."
>
> **ROSS KIBBY**
> *Long-Term Boyfriend*

Many people think that romance will fade the longer a relationship lasts. However, not everyone believes that romance must lessen as time goes on.

"Sometimes it can be kept alive by spontaneous and creative surprises," Ashley Morgan (10) said.

Simple acts such as a note or a flower can really be appreciated and help keep romance alive.

"Just focusing on friendship really keeps couples together. Having a close friendship keeps it fun; romance just happens to come naturally," Parker said.

If a couple were to be asked in high school if they were friends before they began dating, most of the time the answer would be yes. Being friends is something that allows many couples to be closer; couples must like one another in order to love one another. And although it takes much more than little romantic gestures to keep a relationship alive, they certainly don't hurt.

"I don't think guys feel pressured to do great romantic things," Kibby said. "Great boyfriends will go out of their way to make sure their girlfriends have all of their romantic dreams come true."

TOP 5 VALENTINE'S GIFTS FOR HIM

1. His favorite movie
2. His favorite sports team memorabilia
3. New watch
4. Sunglasses
5. Snuggie

Sage Presents

TOP 5 VALENTINE'S GIFTS FOR HER

1. Fresh flowers
2. A day at the spa
3. DeBrand's chocolate
4. Framed photo
5. Homemade sweets

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Quirky instruments prove to be more than novelty hobbies

Banjo, didgeridoo only sampling of student musicians' increasingly unconventional arsenals

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Although some enjoy playing conventional band instruments, others look for a far less vanilla musical experience. With a vastly diverse world of bizarre instruments at an enterprising musician's beck and call, it's hard to imagine a scenario in which a composer cannot locate the instrument to create the music he envisions.

"The banjo has a strange reputation, yet is electrifying," Scott Hill, English teacher, said. "The banjo makes a loud and forceful kind of music; it is the closet thing to an electric guitar. I named my daughter after the first song I learned to play on the banjo, which was 'June Apple.'"

There are two kinds of music that are produced when playing the banjo; these are clawhammer and bluegrass. Bluegrass is an early form of country music that involves gospel vocals. Clawhammer uses a different finger-picking maneuver. It is called Clawhammer because the hand of the banjo player is shaped like a claw.

While stringed instruments such as the guitar and banjo may be popular for most bands as well as the face of video games such as "Guitar Hero," music bears percussive components, as well.

"I play the handbells at church because it is a nice way to enjoy time at church and it was a good way to be first introduced into music. I usually play with two bells in each hand, but sometimes I play with three bells in my left hand," Lydia Dempsey (10) said.

The handbells were created in the 17th century in England, when neighbors of bell towers grew tired of listening to the rehearsals of the bells. They were first brought to the United States in 1840, and during the 1940s, handbells were introduced to American churches, where people began to use them for entertainment. A specific type of handbell is the English handbell, defined by its clapper and its overtone. The clapper is on a hinge that moves back and forth, but one clapper is prevented from resting against the other clapper.

However, not all instruments come from the Northern Hemisphere; the Southern Hemisphere is not without its own musical innovations.

"I wanted to learn how to play the didgeridoo just to be unique and because it sounds pretty awesome with any other instruments," Michael Hope (11) said. "I first found out about the didgeridoo when I was playing the song 'I'm Yours' by Jason Mraz. My friend and I decided that it would sound good with bongos, so we went online and found the didgeridoo instead."

The didgeridoo is a wind instrument developed over 1,500 years ago by northern Australians. It is claimed to be the world's oldest wind instrument, and goes by varying monikers in each corner of the world. To play the didgeridoo, a person vibrates his lips and the long tube of the didgeridoo amplifies the vibration into a deep bass. There are different techniques to make beats, such as using one's tongue to stop and start the vibration and by saying different words in one's throat to change the pitch.

▶▶1,500
years ago, Australians developed what would be known as the didgeridoo.

"If someone wants to play a pretty unique instrument, I'd say the didgeridoo is for them," Hope said.

For those who grew tired of piano lessons as a child or want to break out of the band funk, take heed; there's an entire world of undiscovered music waiting beyond the conventional confines of the modern musician.

'LOST' IN AWE

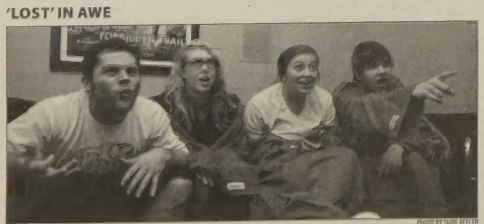

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Anthony Mullen (12), Molly Smith (12), Kate Waters (12) and Trent Cooper (12) demonstrate their excitement during the premiere of "Lost" on Feb. 2. This season will end the series after a seven-season run. The diehard fans organized their season kickoff bash via a Facebook group dedicated to the hit NBC show.

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Jane Austen captures classic novel aspects

I often lament the lack of interest in classics among this generation's youth, but when I consider the exceptional revival of Jane Austen within the past 20 years, I can only decipher from the resulting happiness one intelligible thing: Jane Austen has brought us back to our senses.

By my estimation, Austen is the foremost novelist in penetrating the female psyche. Her female characters are of excellent disposition and possess many favorable characteristics, yet they are flawed. Anne Elliot is pleasant-looking yet plain, while Elizabeth Bennet is just short of being as lovely as her sister Jane. Emma is beautiful, but stubbornly vain. Despite their Achilles heels, Austen's women are graceful and real – they are poised and practical, patient and intelligent, dutiful and independent. There is something of all women in Jane Austen's heroines, and it is part of why her books have endured.

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

The male leads aren't too shabby, either – after all, who doesn't read "Pride and Prejudice" without swooning over Mr. Darcy? Mr. Darcy is intelligent and forthright, whereas Captain Wentworth is gallant and sensible. Austen's men are stable and respectful, essentially consummate gentlemen. They work in cohesion with the heroines and complement one another exceptionally.

I enjoy all of Austen's novels, but "Persuasion" stands apart. Anne's musings on the value of persuasion are delightful, but above all else, the book displays Austen's finest achievement: the vision of marriage as a partnership, not a dictatorship.

I believe that Austen accomplished something that many modern mainstream romantic drama writers fail to harness: creating a woman in love whose existence does not gravitate around the object of her affection. The romance novels of today are utterly reprehensible, with the "Twilight" saga and the mechanical plots of Nicholas Sparks coming instantly to mind, both being so horrendous that I feel I'll be burned if I so much as touch the books.

Austen is living proof that romance novels need not be tawdry tales of harlequins; her novels pulsate with grace and dignity. Her female leads choose their male counterparts not because they are too weak to refuse, but because they genuinely want to.

> " ... Who cares why the public has taken a shine to the classics, so long as they are being read and cherished like they deserve to be?"
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Life Editor*

Austen's stories are indeed formulaic – boy meets girl, girl rejects boy, boy gradually wins girl over – but the tale is no less enchanting with each reinvention, brimming with diversified romantic leads and delightful supporting casts.

Perhaps Austen's popularity is contributed to in part by the recent slew of films produced from her novels. If so, I am glad of it; who cares why the public has taken a shine to the classics, so long as they are being read and cherished like they deserve to be? Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen brought a wonderful performance to "Pride and Prejudice," particularly during their climactic argument in the rain, and Emma Thompson was an exceptional Elinor Dashwood.

Austen's novels are an extraordinary testament to the human ability to overcome, whether the challenge is emotional instability or rigid class structure, but above all else, they portray the female as she should be portrayed: thoughtfully, wittily and intelligently.

PHOTO WWW.GOLDENGLOBES.ORG

PHOTO WWW.GOLDENGLOBES.ORG

1. The red carpet awaits the stars at the Oscars.
2. Mo'Nique watches as the Golden Globe nominees are shown before she is announced the winner of the 2010 Best Supporting Actress.
3. Kate Hudson begins to present the nominations of a category at the 2010 Golden Globes.

PHOTO WWW.TEARSOFJOYVIDEO.COM

the AWARD goes to...

New award season captivates student viewers' interests

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

The glitz, the glamour, the drunken acceptance speeches, the uncoordinated stumbles made by astonished winners on their pilgrimage to the stage; what's not to love about award show season? While they may be somewhat alienating to those not cultured in the fine arts of spotting red carpet fashion faux pas or predicting nominees, there's a certain allure held by Hollywood elegance for the most devoted of viewers.

With seemingly endless telecasts and nominations commonly awarded only to critics' darlings, making it through an award show fully awake seems a praiseworthy feat. However, for those who tune in on a regular basis, it's no chore at all.

"It's nice to see good movies get recognized," Kate Colcord (11), who often goes into televised award ceremonies rooting for her favorite, said. "And the red carpet specials are pure fun. You get to see a bunch of celebrities together in the same room and really gorgeous dresses – and really horrific fashion choices, too – which is interesting."

As award shows are seldom pre-taped, there's something to be said for the spontaneity factor as well, which lends itself equally as much to surprising wins as it does to awkward gaffes.

"It's fun to see what celebrities are wearing," Lily Farnsworth (11) said. "I also like being surprised by the funny things that comedians like Steve Carell and Ricky Gervais say."

When hosting duties fall to hilarious veteran guests, award show telecasts spawn an entirely new opportunity for amusement.

"[Gervais] made fun of a lot of people and was very dry," Farnsworth said, citing Gervais' droll turn as the host of the 2010 Golden Globes as a landmark performance. "Award show hosts need to be quick and funny."

However, according to Colcord, hosting is not simply a comedic feat; it's a performance.

"An award show host needs to move the show along in creative ways. I'd say the best recent hosts would be Neil Patrick Harris at the 2009 Emmys and Hugh Jackman at the 2009 Oscars. Both also did musical ensembles, which are always enjoyable to watch," Colcord said.

For the consummate award show viewer and even for the newbie, there is no lack of telecasts to choose from; the Oscars, the Primetime Emmys, the Golden Globes, and the Screen Actors' Guild Awards are all notable broadcasts, those being merely the most prestigious in a sea of awards shows across numerous channels.

However, with each show commending far different subjects, preferences vary.

"I like to watch the Golden Globes," Farnsworth said. "It's more relaxed, and it combines film and television."

First held in 1944, the Golden Globes feature the noteworthy characteristic of resembling a dinner party, as celebrity guests are served a meal in the ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hilton. Because of their informality and acknowledgement of both film and television, they bear strong popularity.

"The Golden Globes are less serious than the Oscars or the Emmys, and they have the celebrities sitting around tables, with wine available, so you get a lot of drunken speeches, which is always hilarious," Colcord said.

As always, award show season comes down to the definitive question: what film will take home the Best Picture trophy at the Oscars?

"I think 'Avatar' will win, but I like 'Up in the Air' the best," Farnsworth said.

Though the Best Picture category is usually monopolized by critical successes, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has expanded its field to ten nominees rather than the conventional five, allowing blockbuster successes a fighting chance.

"'Avatar' has the edge, given that it's such a commercial success," Colcord said. "'A Single Man' was breathtaking, so I'd probably vote for that. There haven't been a ton of outstanding movies, but I immensely enjoyed '(500) Days of Summer' and 'Star Trek,' as well. To be honest, I'd love to see anything but 'Avatar' win, even though it most likely will."

With only the Oscars remaining as award show season draws to a close, all eyes will turn to the historic Kodak Theater on March 7, when "Avatar" and its nine competitors will compete for the highest honor in film.

ADRIENNE'S FIGURES TO FORECAST

"I had high hopes for him at the Golden Globes, seeing that he is a hilarious comedian, but instead his hosting duties became nothing more than drunken insults."

RICKY GERVAIS: WORST HOST

SANDRA BULLOCK: WORST NOMINEE

"The Blind Side could have been replaced with so many better films. I would have likes to see '(500) Days of Summer' nominated for Best Picture instead."

"His speeches at the SAG Awards and the Golden Globes were so eloquent, and should he win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, I imagine that the coordinating acceptance speech won't be any different."

CHRISTOPH WALTZ: BEST ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

GINNIFER GOODWIN: BEST DRESSED

"This blue dress was a showstopper with the great drapery, rich color and asymmetrical neckline. Even in the rain, she pulled off an amazing dress on the red carpet."

PHOTO & ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARY BOSTLER

LEGACY OF A MAGNUM OPUS

- ▶ "Catcher" was banned in several countries and U.S. schools for use of swear words
- ▶ One parent counted the number of times swear words were used in the book
- ▶ 1970s: High school English teachers who assigned "Catcher" were fired or quit
- ▶ 1979: Study of censorship noted "Catcher" as the most censored book and second-most taught book in America
- ▶ 2004: "Catcher" was selling 250,000 copies a year
- ▶ "Catcher" has been reprinted eight times

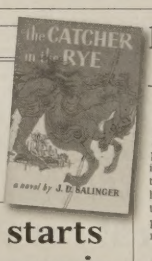


PHOTO WWW.AMAZON.COM | SOURCE: WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Recent death of J.D. Salinger starts skepticism of hidden novels, movie

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

There's a bit of Holden Caulfield in everyone.

The death of American author J.D. Salinger at the age of 91 on Jan. 27 has affected the entire country. The author behind the classic novel "The Catcher in the Rye" has had a significant impact on teenagers. The protagonist, Holden Caulfield, embodies the teenage spirit.

"He was a great voice of humanity," Howard Jankowski, AP Literature and Composition teacher, said.

Salinger's work, which also includes "Franny and Zooey," has a unique quality that allows almost every reader to relate.

"Everyone has this aspect of searching for who you are," Jankowski said. "Part of being a teenager is figuring out what your purpose in life is."

When Quinn Brenneke (12) read "Catcher," he was immediately struck by the similarities between his life and that of Caulfield's.

"The things he was going through were more exaggerated than my life, but he definitely thinks the way I do," Brenneke said.

Jankowski, who cites "Catcher" as his favorite book of all time, began teaching the book to his AP class last year. His Honors American Literature class has been studying "Franny and Zooey" for the last three years.

"'The Catcher in the Rye' is an American high school staple," Jankowski, who likens Salinger's effect on literature to that of Hemingway, said. "He was a trendsetter of the colloquial novel for high literature."

Salinger passed away of natural causes after more than 40 years of seclusion, according to CNN. He avoided the public eye whenever possible and refused to publish after 1965. Salinger despised the attention he received, and he thus left decades of work unpublished, reputed by The Huffington Post to amount to 14 novels.

"Hopefully, because of his death, more of [Salinger's] words will be added to our culture," Jankowski said.

While a number of famous writers, including Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy, burned their letters and unfinished work, it is unclear whether Salinger took such steps. However, it is possible the world will have the opportunity to read new Salinger work in the coming years.

"I would definitely read more work if it was published," Brenneke said.

Jankowski, eager to read more novels by Salinger, has been complaining to his class for three years.

"I would joke, '[Salinger]'s in his 90s. About time he died and released his books!'" Jankowski said.

When a group of Jankowski's students learned of Salinger's death, they rampaged through the school to his classroom and said, "Your dream has come true!"

The question now remains: will Hollywood finally produce a "Catcher" movie, an event Salinger worked hard to prevent?

"I don't think they'll respect his wishes," Brenneke said.

Jankowski, who thinks the movie will become a big-budget spectacle in the coming years, is adamant that a big-name director like Steven Spielberg would destroy the story. Only content with direction of the Dardene brothers or Gus Van Sant, Jankowski dreads the product of the Hollywood machine.

While Salinger has influenced a nation, the sudden burst of attention is probably making him turn in his grave.

"Salinger was different," Brenneke said. "He dared to write about things that were uncommon."

Recounting Muslims' 1940s Exile

Journalism student's family recalls 'riots going on constantly'

Millions of people are shoving past each other, trying to make their way to the overfilled trains. They pass by dead bodies, people crying, soldiers holding guns. But they ignore all of this so that they can make it to the train. If they miss it, they'll have to wait hours, maybe days, to catch the next one--that is, if they don't get killed by then. These people are risking their lives for one simple reason: to get to the other side of the border.

"I was reading the newspaper when all of a sudden I heard gunshots and people screaming," Mahmoud Anwar said. With his life in danger, Sergeant Mahmoud elected to leave the country, but he wouldn't be leaving alone.

BY NABIA KHAN
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Living as a Muslim in India was tough in the 1940s. Muslims were harassed, cheated in business trades, not allowed to buy certain things and sometimes not allowed to visit certain places. However, being a Muslim hadn't always been like this. According to the sergeant, different religions had lived in peace until the Muslims started practicing their religion openly. After building mosques, Sikhs and Hindus essentially banned Muslims from publicly practicing their religion.

"Mosques that were built were torn down," Yasmin Anwar, Mahmoud's sister, remembers. "Then all the Muslims got angry and revolted. There were riots going on constantly."

In return, the Sikhs and Hindus took it upon themselves to stop the Muslims from uprising. Their solution was simple: kill them. Whenever a Muslim was seen out in the open, he would be taken by the police. If Muslims were rebelling, they were shot. But the Muslims couldn't let their fellows be killed; they fought back against the Sikhs and Hindus. A war ensued. It was no longer safe for Muslims to live in India.

Everything had been blown out of proportion. Something simple like praying in a mosque had caused so much bloodshed. Two million people had been killed. The Muslims felt that they had had enough. They were leaving. Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the movement. He gathered the Muslims and told them they were going to start their own country, and Sergeant Mahmoud had decided that he was going to help. He became part of the "military" that Jinnah put together to protect the Muslims on their journey to what would become Pakistan. This journey would not be easy, but it would be worth it.

So the planning began. The Muslims were told to gather their families and pack their belongings. But soon, the Hindus and Sikhs found out the details of the plot. They arrived at the train stations and killed people left and right. Mahmoud and Yasmin were there and watched as people ran in terror while others dropped to the ground. Yasmin boarded the train, but Mahmoud stayed behind. He wasn't leaving until the others boarded the train safely.

"At the train stops, the Sikhs and Hindus would board the trains and kill the people who were in there. The ones who survived would cover themselves with the dead bodies so that they couldn't be seen. It was the only way they couldn't be seen," Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud boarded the second-to-last train to leave. He made it safely to Pakistan and was shortly reunited with his family. Slowly yet surely, Pakistan began developing as a country. It provided a haven for the Muslims, now enjoying their freedom to practice their religion.

What Mahmoud had done was heroic, and he was recognized for his brave work. He became part of the new Pakistani military and received medals for his honorable conduct.

"I am so glad that my uncle did what he did," Nashia Khan said. "If it wasn't for him, many people who are living in Pakistan now wouldn't even be there. It's because of him that I am proud to be where I'm from."

Nabia Khan is a junior currently enrolled in Journalism II. She submitted this class assignment at the request of the Spartana staff.

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

The girls' basketball team propelled to victory as they beat the DeKalb Barons last week to bring them to their current 17-2 season. Last season the team finished with a record of 13-8. They are scheduled to play their first game of the Jay County Sectional Tournament against the Huntington North Vikings. Huntington North has a record of 7-12, which should make the Spartans first game of the tournament an easy win.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Hockey team surges ahead after 'intense' victory over Carroll

Squad readies for bout with Snider

By Blake Johnson
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The McMillen Ice Arena shook with the screams and cheers of fans Wednesday night, when the Homestead Varsity hockey team took on rival Carroll. The contest consisted of everything an exciting hockey game should, including hard checks, rambunctious fans, trash talk, and plenty of illegal contact. After a long, grueling battle, the Spartans held strong and defeated the Chargers 6-3. This victory solidified Homestead's place as the Fort Wayne Associated High School Hockey League (FWAHSHL) regular season champions.

It was definitely one of the most intense games I've ever played in," said Jared Gidley (12). "The Carroll players wanted to beat us so badly, but there was no way we were going to let them win. It felt so good after the game knowing we won. Every time we play Carroll everyone gets so pumped up and we're always ready to play them. The thing that made this win sweet was that it made us the regular season champs."

Gidley was a big contributor Wednesday night, as he added one goal to the Spartans' six. He is also leading the team in points this year with 33, which ranks third in the state. The Spartans spread the puck around well against the Chargers, as six different players scored a goal. The goal scorers for Homestead included Gidley, Paul Lee (9), Justin Glick (12), Rob Lee (11), Max Dvorak (9) and AJ Fasick (9). Justin Glick currently attends Blackhawk Christian, and is ranked second on the team in points. He is also fourth in the state in points, right behind teammate Jared Gidley. AJ Fasick also goes to Blackhawk along with Glick.

After Wednesday night's victory over Carroll, Homestead is currently ranked 5th in the state. They improved their overall record to 26-3-3. The Spartans are easily the favorites to win the Fort Wayne High School hockey City Championship, where it is highly possible that it will be a rematch against Carroll. Next week's game is against the Spartans' other rival, Snider, and is anticipated to match the intensity of the Carroll game.

RESCHEDULING

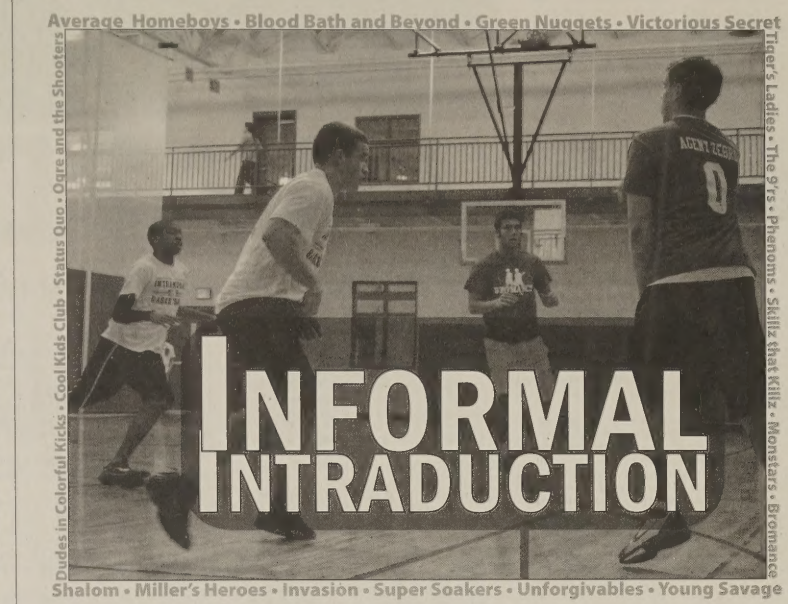
Wednesday's game against Snider has now been rescheduled to Saturday at 5:20 p.m. at the newly constructed CanLan Ice Sports Arena.

"This week's win against Carroll was huge. It definitely has got us pumped up for the game against Snider next week, which should be just as crazy. I am really happy with the way we've been playing this year; it's awesome that we're ranked fifth in the state. We've just got to keep playing the way we've been playing, and keep bringing in the wins. I think one thing that's been helping us out a lot this year is our student section. They make a lot of noise and definitely seem to get in the other teams' heads. There is also the fact that you know it is your friends in the stands, so you want to play well in front of them," Rob Lee (11) said.

"The student section is so crazy this year," said Ethan Bragalone (11). "This is the first year that I've been on the team where there is actually a noticeable student section. It's funny to look over at the stands during the game, and see some of my friends going completely insane. I'll look over and see them banging on the glass, holding up a bunch of signs, and jumping around in the stands. The cheers and chants we hear them do are really funny, and they obviously get the other team's players going. It seems like the fans have more energy than the players this year. We even hear about our fans getting in fights with other fans, and even with the other team's players."

The team was scheduled to play the Snider Panthers on Wednesday, but due to the cancellation of school that day, it was rescheduled to this Saturday. The team will play their second to last regular season game next Wednesday's against Northrop, and will end the regular season the following Wednesday against New Haven.

The hockey team looks to finish off the remainder of the regular season with three straight wins. The Spartans hope to then advance to the postseason, where they will attempt to carry the momentum that they've built all season, to win the City – and possibly State – championships, an accomplishment Homestead has never achieved before.


Average Homeboys • Blood Bath and Beyond • Green Nuggets • Victorious Secret
Dudes in Colorful Kicks • Cool Kids Club • Status Quo • Ogre and the Shooters
Tiger's Ladies • The 3's • Phenoms • Skillz that Killz • Monstars • Bromance
INFORMAL INTRADUCTION
Shalom • Miller's Heroes • Invasion • Super Soakers • Unforgivables • Young Savage

YMCA intramural basketball league nothing but laid-back

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Homestead intramural sports could be defined as a crossbreed between blacktop sports and varsity athletics – where games are probably taken a little bit too seriously, but the bragging rights of beating fellow classmates are just too sweet.

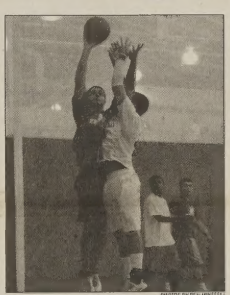
The same is no different at Homestead's basketball intramurals, where groups of current and ex-athletes play once or twice a week in intense basketball games at the local Jorgensen YMCA. Creative team names such as Blood Bath and Beyond, and the Dudes in Colorful Kicks are groups of friends that come together to compete in intense basketball games.

"[Heading into intramurals,] I thought it would be all fun and games, but they are all really competitive games," Josh Raines (12), a member of the Cool Kids Club said, who moved here from Georgia last year.

The two 20 minute half long games are played on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The short six game season determines which seed each team gets for the tournament of bragging rights. This year, the 'B' league teams will be directly fed into the championship tournament, as opposed to having their own tournament last year.

Early on, two of the best teams in the Homestead Intramural league played; the Cool Kids Club beat Bromance 38 to 36 thanks to a tip-in with 1.5 seconds left from Raines. The game left Bromance with their first loss and a new rivalry between the two squads.

"It was definitely a competitive game and we really respect them," Anthony Mullen (12) who plays for Bromance, said. "It was a tough loss, but come tournament time we'll be a little bit more prepared for their style of basketball.



PHOTOS BY BEN MIRESELL

Justin Hanford (12) goes up for a lay-up during a game last week. He is on a Bromance, one of two teams predicted by referee Pat Friday to rule the league.

"I thought [intramurals] would be all fun and games, but they are all really competitive games."

JOSH RAINES (12)
Cool Kids Club Guard

As for the 16 'A' and 4 'B' league intramural teams, half the fun of playing the games is picking a creative team name and playing the games among groups of friends. Shalom, a group of juniors and sophomores who are currently undefeated, took a spiritual route on picking the name of their team. The team name Shalom, which means peace in Hebrew, was chosen by team captain Sean Duval (11). Not even his own teammates know why the team name was chosen, but it is rumored the team name was chosen because Duval wanted peace and harmony on the court.

"I feel like our name could have been better and more fierce, but I definitely feel like our name describes us and what we set out to do during and after game," Dominic Schroeder (11), a member of Shalom, said

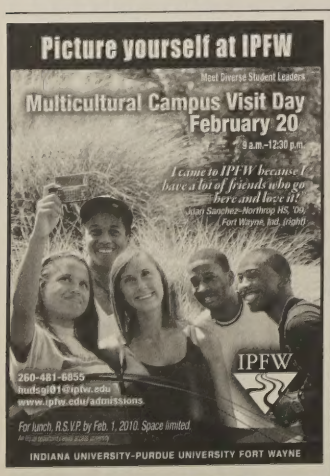
The groups of close-knit guys have rituals like many of the other intramural teams either before or after the game. Shalom attempts to have a team dinner the day before the game to get good carbohydrates and a good team atmosphere before going into the game.

"We've [had a team dinner] twice and I think it helps us to come together as a team and prepare our strategy for victory the next day," Schroeder said. "It has worked pretty well obviously, as we have won all three of our games so far."

Some teams' rituals go as far as dressing up for the weekly or bi-weekly games. Bromance can be seen typically wearing their blue T-shirts on game days or even sporting a dress shirt and tie for the matchups considered more monumental by its captain.

"We try to look classy for the big rivalry games and with the other games and when we wear just our jerseys it's kind of a reminder of the 'Bromance' that we all share together," Mullen said.

While it is too early to crown the new intramural basketball team with their much deserved bragging rights, one thing is for certain: the team that does win will make sure that everyone hears about their victorious efforts come mid-March.


Picture yourself at IPFW
Meet Diverse Student Leaders
Multicultural Campus Visit Day
February 20
9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
I came to IPFW because I have a lot of friends who go here and love it!
Ivan Sanchez–Northrop HS, '09, Fort Wayne, Ind. (right)
IPFW
260-481-6855
hudsgi01@ipfw.edu
www.ipfw.edu/admissions
For lunch. R.S.V.P. by Feb. 1, 2010. Space limited.
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YOUR TURN

The only thing more valuable than our two cents is yours — drop us an e-mail at thespartana@gmail.com, visit room 620 or call us at 260-431-2261.

Letters to the Editor will be neither published nor considered if submitted anonymously.

Intramural ref Pat Friday calls the shots

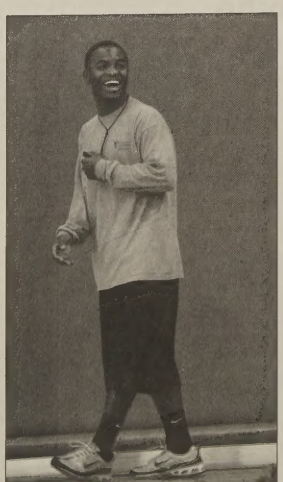


PHOTO BY BEN MIRESELL

Pat Friday has been refereeing with the Jorgenson YMCA for the past three seasons. His first game as a referee was actually an intramural game. He thinks that either Bromance or the Cool Kids Club will win the championship this year.

Homestead intramural referee Pat Friday has certainly witnessed the ups and downs of the mid-winter league. While most games average less than a combined 60 points, humor and poor basketball talent keeps Friday's attention as he makes the calls of the most entertaining sports at Homestead today. He's been refereeing with Homestead for the past three seasons, and now recalls some of his favorite memories from refereeing.

Spartana: How long have you been refereeing basketball games?

Friday: I've been refereeing basketball for almost three years now.

Spartana: At where did you start refereeing?

Friday: I started refereeing at the Jorgenson YMCA. My first game was actually a Homestead intramural game a few seasons back.

Spartana: Have you played organized basketball before you started refereeing?

Friday: Yes, I have. I started playing basketball in the sixth grade, but I only played my junior and senior year of high school.

Spartana: How many seasons have you refereed intramurals?

Friday: This is my third season refereeing at the YMCA.

Spartana: What's the best team you've ever seen during intramurals? The worst team?

Friday: The best team I've ever seen would probably be The Goombas a couple seasons back. I don't think they even came close to losing. The worst team ever would probably be Millers Heroes, but don't get me wrong, I got much love for them.

Spartana: Who do you think will win this season's championship?

Friday: I'm not sure. It would probably come down to either Bromance or the Cool Kids Club.

Spartana: What's the best team name you've heard while reffing at the YMCA?

Friday: Oh, by far the best name I've ever heard of is The Wet Boyz.

Spartana: What's the strangest thing you've ever seen while reffing an intramural basketball game?

Friday: The strangest thing I have ever seen was a kid got crossed, [do] a complete 360-degree turn, and then fall.

Spartana: How do you determine whether or not to make a call like a travel or a foul?

Friday: The only thing I can say about that is, I only call it the way I see it. Does the score make a difference in the call? The score makes a big difference. If it's a close game, I try to make the calls even. If it's a blowout, I let some things go.

Spartana: What's the biggest difference you see between a good team and a bad team?

Friday: The difference is good teams are a little bit more cocky and love to try and run up the score. Bad teams are just out there to have fun. And if they win, they win.

Spartana: Have you ever seen a team that could possibly have a chance of taking on Homestead's varsity team?

Friday: I haven't seen a team that could, but if you pick up some kids from a few teams, yes.

Spartana: What's the biggest difference you see between high school basketball and intramurals?

Friday: High school basketball is more serious and organized, of course, but Homestead intramural basketball is probably one of the funniest things I've ever seen in my life.

THE DRYEST DROUGHTS

With their 31-17 victory in Super Bowl XLIV, the New Orleans Saints are leaving behind a shrinking groups of football teams to never have reached the coveted league championship matchup annually held during late January or early February. Prior to the end of their Super Bowl drought, the Saints played more than 40 years without appearing in a Super Bowl. The team first qualified for the playoffs in 1987.

NFL Team	2009 Regular Season Record	Inaugural Season
Detroit Lions	2-14	1929
Cleveland Browns	5-11	1946
Jacksonville Jaguars	7-9	1995
Houston Texans	9-7	2002

PHOTO WWW.NOLA.COM | SOURCE: WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Wrestlers land first sectional title in 12 years

Upperclassmen qualifiers inch past New Haven by half of a point for narrow victory

By Connor O'Hara
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

After 12 years of attempts, the Homestead wrestling team has been crowned sectional champions. Earning their last sectional champion title in 1998, the Spartans have come close the past few years but have failed to deliver. The team has now done away with the idea that the wrestling team has potential to be great but is unable to deliver.

The meet was a classic nail-biter. It was an all-out brawl between two of the best performing teams, Homestead and New Haven. The scores of each team shifted throughout the entire meet, but the Spartans emerged on top with peak performances by Andy Franklin, Brad Mills and Tucker Smith. The final score of the meet was 198.5 for Homestead against New Haven's 198.

"This is the first time we've won this sectional since they were realigned with different teams," Andy Franklin (12) said.

The realigning of teams in the wrestling sectionals proved to be a very difficult hurdle for the Spartans to overcome, but this year, was different. This year, the team was stronger than ever, and they proved their already-known winning potential.

Among the star performers at the sectional meet were Andrew Bowman (103), who finished first; Tucker Smith (130), who finished first; Josh Kryder (135), who finished second; and Brad Mills (215). Each wrestler finished in their respective weight class.

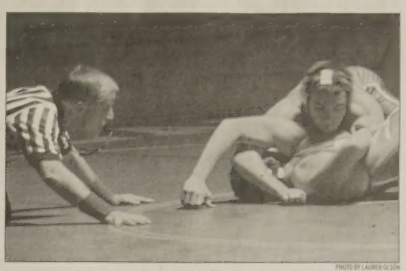


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Spartan matman Tucker Smith (12) awaits the referee's final call while attempting to pin an East Noble wrestler during the teams' Dec. 17 meet. Homestead's varsity competitors eased past their opponents 34-24 halfway through a regular season that would eventually result in the school's first IHSAA sectional title since 1998.

After the Spartans won sectionals, the team went on to take part in the regional tournament, but unfortunately, the outcome was not what the team expected after performing so well in the sectional tournament. The Spartans lost to Whitko, which ended the dreams of a state title.

The Spartans finished with a regular season record of 13-6. From the beginning of the season, the Spartans felt that this year was the team's best chance to make a run deep into the postseason. With a strong start in local invitationals, they began to make a name for themselves. The Spartans took first place at the New Haven Invitational and third place at the Concordia Invitational.

The team had an almost perfect set-up of performers, and this next year proves to be more of the same.

"There will be a strong class of seniors coming back next year with Bowman (11), Kryder (11), Mills (11) and Keelan Rushing (11)," Franklin said. "If they keep working hard the team will be successful next year."

For the wrestling team, winning is based on more than strength alone. Physical strength is important, but mental strength is also vital. The Spartans adopted the right mindset as they went into the sectional tournament. When asked to judge the most important factor that led to their victory, both Franklin and Mills said that having a good mental attitude toward the meet and knowing how to be mentally strong greatly influenced their success.

Now, the question turns to next year. Can Homestead do it again?

Some of the key contributors to the team are graduating this year, which may prove to be a setback for the Spartans. But a determined wave of current juniors are hoping to fill their predecessors' shoes next year, first-place sectional finisher Andrew Bowman said.

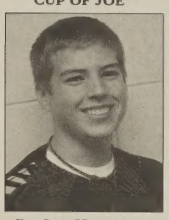
"If I continue to improve on my technique during the offseason, I will hopefully be able to win again next year," he said.

The promise of a repeat victory resounded with other prospective seniors, too.

"Oh, yeah, I think we can [do it again]," Mills said. "We should keep winning it."

Saints' win a triumph transcending football

Cup of Joe



By Joe Hanauer
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

Finally, a team I can love to love. The New Orleans Saints finally won their first Super Bowl in the team's franchise while the Colts tried to bring back the title after winning it all in 2007. And with both teams developing a fan base faster than swine flu spreads in a nursing home, our country had finally pitted its citizens against each other before the kickoff of Super Bowl XLIV. And is there anything about either of these two teams that doesn't appeal to you? When was the last time the headline ticker on ESPN read "Saints LB charged with DUI" or "Colts DB arrested with possession of firearms"? I mean, with Tiger Woods and John Edwards cluttering up E Hollywood News with their allegations of reckless promiscuity, these two teams are making the NFL look cleaner than a convent. Did I forget to mention that Saints running back Reggie Bush is dating Kim Kardashian? Yeah, I love the Saints.

I could care less about the results of last Sunday's game. They won't make a difference when you look at how great these two teams' seasons have been. The Saints are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, and they gave people hope in the darkest times. The team had fans who would show up to the games wearing paper bags over their heads, the same fans who now force the away team to wear earplugs during the games. And New Orleans fans will never be too cool for the Saints, and the team isn't afraid to show how much they appreciate them. ESPN showed music mogul Harry Connick Jr. meeting with Drew Brees to tell him about how jazzed up (pun intended) he was about seeing the Saints play the Arizona Cardinals in the Division Championship. And that's not to say that the Colts aren't the golden boys that the media has so readily portrayed them to be. Peyton Manning's biggest fault is how ridiculous he looks in his Sprint commercials.

We could all take a note from the discipline that Sean Peyton gives his team. No one tries to cross the line. Heck, no one gets a mile from thinking about putting a toe over the line. He gave them an 11 p.m. curfew on the night before the Super Bowl. A curfew that early in Miami is like telling a 7 year-old to take a nap after his first jump in the ball pit at Chuck-E-Cheese. People respect him and respectfully follow his decisions, even when they defy the party mentality that typically surrounds the nation's most ubiquitous sporting event. Although he is a disciplined coach, Sean Peyton's players don't want to let him, or the city, down. That's why the Saints are such a well-rounded team compared to the rest of the league.

I don't mean to harp on the Colts, I have to like them, I literally have to. There's an unwritten law saying that if you live in the Hoosier state, you must blindly follow the Colts. Being a fan of the Chicago Cubs, and Notre Dame, I feel as though cheering for a winning team almost feels wrong. Colts and Saints fans have been sprouting like weeds in the last few weeks, making this the biggest Bandwagon Super Bowl of all time. But I can't blame them. These two teams play one of the toughest, dirtiest sports in today's society but come off as some of the most professional men off of the field. Manning heads up the Peyback foundation, which helps disadvantaged kids in Indiana, Tennessee, and Louisiana. Drew Brees heads his own organization, Operation Kids, which helps build athletic and academic facilities and helps create mentoring programs for the mentally disabled. Brees also recently donated $2 million dollars to Purdue University, his alma mater. Both of these teams have criminal records that are cleaner than a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. After all, the biggest story of the week was whether Dwight Freeney's ankle would be healthy before game time. And to no surprise, Freeney suited up for that night, and played the entire game. No allegations, no scandals, no one needing to get bailed out of jail, no controversial suspensions – you could say it was "a classic Joe Hanauer" night on the eve of the Super Bowl.

> "The Saints are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, and they gave people hope in the darkest times. The team that had fans who would show up to the games wearing paper bags over their heads are now the fans that force the away team to wear earplugs."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

Even though "Who Dat?" Nation stunned all Colts fans as they won Super Bowl XLIV 31-17, I really think that these two teams show us that football is trending into the direction of becoming a "better" game. I really don't think it's going to get any better than seeing more than 2,000 single-season rushing yards, but seeing Drew "Breesus" Brees and other players like him show us that it's okay to be a good player on and off the field are going to prove to us that the sport is gaining respect from fans across the nation and just those stationed in the Big Easy.

Saints owner Tom Benson said it best, moments after receiving the coveted Lombardi trophy, black and gold streamers raining on his glowing face: "We're back, we're back, we're back." Now, seriously, how can you not love the Saints?

LEADING between the LINES

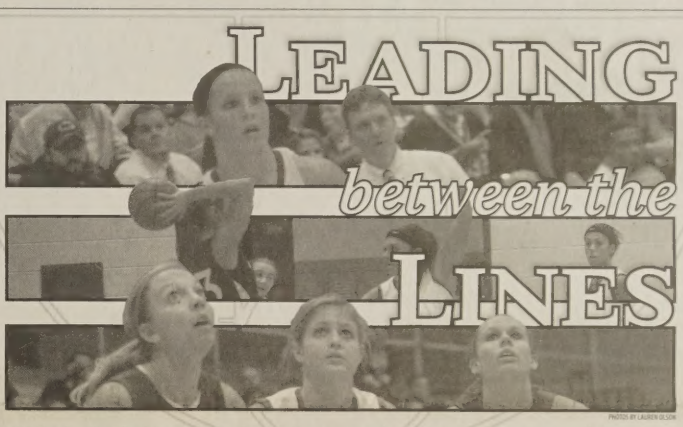


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Girls' basketball team emerges from regular season 90-percent victorious

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The regular girls' varsity basketball season comes to a close tonight. The home game against the Leo Lions will mark the end of a season where the team has shown great improvement. The game also marks the beginning of this year's high school postseason.

> "A lot of teams underestimate us, but we work and prove them wrong."
>
> **CARMEN LOWE (10)**
> *Varsity Forward*

Last season, the Spartans finished with 13 wins and 8 losses and finished fourth place in the Northeast Hoosier Conference. This season, the team has 17 wins and 2 losses. The Spartans have become one of the best teams in the NHC, ranked second below Norwell, and are now one of the top 25 teams in Indiana.

The varsity team has worked hard and focused on improvement during practice. In addition to their work ethic, much of the team's success is due to the strong starting line-up, which consists of Carmen Lowe, Terraysha Gordon, Kendra Dyson, Jena Hamrick and Emily Bley. Most of the starters played on the team last year, but Emily Bley is new to the team.

"Even though I am the only freshman on the team, I don't feel any different than the others," Bley said. "At first I was so nervous, but I was also excited at the same time."

The team also has experienced older players returning this year. Kendra Dyson, who did not play last year due to an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury, is starting again this year. Jena Hamrick, a member of the first all-NHC team last season, will also be back to play for the Spartans. Earlier in the season, coach Rod Parker expressed his excitement about coaching a more experienced team.

"This is the most experience I have had since I have been at Homestead," Parker said. This is Parker's ninth year as head coach of the girls' varsity team. He has a record of 104 wins and 88 losses over the course of his time at Homestead.

Carmen Lowe, a sophomore who was also played varsity as a freshman, said that Homestead has a chance to be a contender in the post-season this year.

"Compared to the other teams, we are tough and hard competition. A lot of teams underestimate us, but we work hard and prove them wrong," Lowe said.

The Spartans are the favored team in the final game of the regular season. Homestead is 6-1 at home with only one loss on Jan. 16 after a close game with Columbia City. The Leo Lions, however, will still be a challenging opponent for the Spartans. The Lions are 5-2 on the road, and 16-4 on their total season. The Lions also recently won the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament after beating Garrett High School in a game that went into overtime. The final score was 50-44.

After the regular season ends, the Spartans will still have post-season play. The post-season starts on Feb. 16, when Homestead will play the North Side Redskins in the Jay County Sectional Tournament. If Homestead wins the tournament, the Spartans will have their first sectional victory since 1998, when Homestead beat Huntington North.

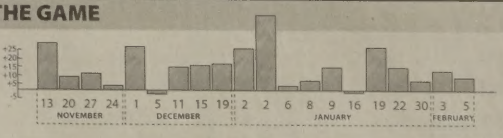
"We are very determined to go far this year," Lowe said.

The Redskins, coached by Greg Raher, are 7-12 on the season and are 1-2 in games played on neutral territory. The sectional tournament will take place at Huntington North High School. The winner will play the 4-15 Huntington North Vikings, who drew a bye for the first round of the tournament. The other teams who will compete in the tournament are 15-6 Jay County, 14-5 Marion and 13-7 South Side, who also has a bye for the first round. Sectional tickets will be on sale for $9.

▶▶0.90
is the girls' varsity basketball team's regular season winning percentage. Their record prior to the postseason was 18-2.

A SPREAD OF THE GAME

The Lady Spartans averaged a 13.8 point spread throughout their 20-game regular season schedule.



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Letters to the Editor must be submitted the Monday before the Friday distribution of The Spartana. Letters can be no longer than 500 words and will not printed if they contain libelous or obscene content. The Spartana reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity and grammar when applicable.

To inquire about advertising with The Spartana, contact business manager Max Isroff at max@isroff.net or 260-415-7884.

the NEXT 65

the GLIMPSE

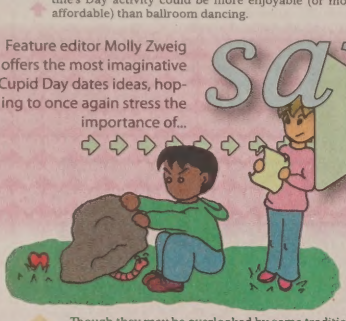
PHOTO WWW.COLLIDER.COM

Romantic drama "Dear John," starring Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried, raked in $30.5 million over Super Bowl weekend, dethroning "Avatar" after the sci-fi epic enjoyed eight weeks in first place. "Dear John" received mixed-to-negative reviews from national film critics, many of whom likened to other sappy adaptations of Nicholas Sparks' novels. Writer Kati Vail agreed with this similarity, but still deemed the love story a "feel-good" tearjerker.

[FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET]

saving the date

Feature editor Molly Zweig offers the most imaginative Cupid Day dates ideas, hoping to once again stress the importance of...



What could be a better excuse to grab onto a date than ballroom dancing? Whether the couple's rhythm is skillfully on par with the dreaded quick step or they seek something mindlessly fun like the jitterbug or the hustle, ballroom dancing serves as an enjoyable way to get moving rather than sit through the all-too cliché dinner and a movie.

Fort Wayne's own American Style Ballroom Dance Studio, located downtown on North Clinton Street, offers inexpensive dance lessons ranging everywhere from the samba to the bolero. The studio offers group lessons running at merely $14 collectively each night of the week for those who feel comfortable shimmying and shaking in public.

FLOORED WITH LOVE

For those who are confident in their footwork or simply wish to dive in headlong, practice dances are offered for a collective $10 in which, every Friday at 8 p.m., couples can practice their skills in a social environment. Tonight, the studio is hosting a group rumba, and tomorrow, guests can partake in a group tango. For the active couple, no Valentine's Day activity could be more enjoyable (or more affordable) than ballroom dancing.

STARRY EYED SURPRIZ

Winter is widely considered by astronomers the time of year best suited to stargazing due to its cloudlessly clear night skies. The season offers no better opportunity than Valentine's Day to take a date constellation-spotting.

If the backyard telescope is covered in snow, Fort Wayne is home to venues with technology far more effective than the naked eye. At Fox Island, the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society meets every Saturday night at 8 p.m. to comb the inky night sky in search of an elusive glimpse of constellations such as Orion and Taurus.

To stay shielded from the elements, take a date to the Saint Francis Planetarium, where a projector simulates over 2,100 stars, the Milky Way galaxy, and the current positions of the five planets visible to the naked eye.

LA VIDA LA COCOA

Buying chocolates is pretty standard, but eating an entire chocolate lunch is truly thinking outside of the box.

Peony Tea House, located at 503 W. Wayne Street, will be serving a chocolate lunch on Saturday, Feb. 20. The Tea House, generally open only on Saturdays on a reservations-only basis, will feature a special entrée, salad, chocolate tea and desserts. The entire meal will cost $15.12, and reservations can be made by calling 260-426-4832.

If there's not enough time for a meal, get together with some friends and schedule a private tour of Debrand Fine Chocolates' factory. Scheduled tours are only offered during the school day, but with a group of 12 or more, a private tour can be arranged Monday through Sunday at 10105 Auburn Park Drive. The 45 minute tour costs $5 per person and also comes with a coupon for any of Debrand's famous chocolates. Call 1-800-482-4373 or e-mail tours@debrand.com for reservations.

Though they may be overlooked by some traditional couples, scavenger hunts can be a great and inexpensive way to have some Valentine's Day fun. With a little planning and creativity, these expeditions can be even more memorable than a movie or dinner out.

Malls and parks are good places to hide clues, but most good hunts will have clues in a variety of places, best accessed by a car. If the staff at a restaurant or store agree to get involved, even better.

It may seem cliché to hide flowers, candy hearts or gifts, but these can be fun additions to the scavenger hunt. However, bonus creativity points can be earned by hiding personalized items, things that are meaningful to the couple's relationship.

LOOKING FOR LOVE

A photographic festivity may also be the way to go. With larger groups, assign photos of different items or tasks different point values, set a time limit and break into teams. The squad with the highest score wins and may reward themselves with a pass on planning the next year's excursion.

CARTOONS BY CELIA GRUNDMAN

PERFORMANCES

"Stop Kiss"
Tonight and tomorrow, Diana Son's "Stop Kiss" will be performed at IPFW's Studio Theatre in Kettler Hall. The show is about two women whose lives are dramatically changed after they witness a hate crime in New York City. The production contains adult themes and is for mature audiences only. Tickets for the 8 p.m. shows are $5 and are available at 260-481-6555.

"Anne of Green Gables"
On Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., "Anne of Green Gables" will play at the Arts United Center. The production by Fort Wayne Youtheatre follows the journeys of Anne Shirley and her friend Dianna Barry as they grow. Tickets are $8 and $12 and can be purchased by calling 260-422-6900.

Dvorak's New World Symphony
Tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Embassy Theater, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic will present Dvorak's New World Symphony, featuring violinist Jennifer Koh and pianist Benjamin Hochman. Specific pieces will be performed from the symphony. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased from the Embassy's box office at 260-481-0777.

Jack's Mannequin
The band, along with fun. and Vedera, will perform at the Murat Egyptian Room in Indianapolis on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Prices for tickets begin at $19 and are available at www.tickets.livenation.com.

Martina McBride & Trace Adkins
As part of their Shine All Night tour, Martina McBride and Trace Adkins will be performing at the Memorial Coliseum on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are $39.75 or $49.75 for the country show and are available at the Coliseum's ticket office or Ticketmaster.

Cirque de la Symphonie
On Feb. 26 and 27 at 8 p.m., the Fort Wayne Philharmonic will accompany a troupe of talented acrobats for Cirque de la Symphonie. Tickets for this event at the Embassy range from $20 to $62 and can be purchased at www.fwphil.org or by calling 260-481-0777.

City theaters polishing plays as spring nears

'Love Letters,' 'Eurydice' among venues' dramas of choice for late winter months

By Rachel Shinn
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Spring is just around the corner, signaling the season for drama – theater drama that is. Many local theaters are starting work on this year's shows.

"Love Letters," a play showcasing theater at its simplest, will be playing tonight at the First Presbyterian Theater. This play stars two actors who read letters exchanged with each other written over a lifetime. It would be easy to say that these actors, in their own way, act as the two star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet. Differing from other plays, a different husband and wife couple will be featured each night, "giving life to this evocative, touching and frequently funny piece," First Presbyterian Director Thom Holfrichter said in a written statement.

"It was easier to prepare because there's no memorization involved, and we don't have any stage blocking either," Curtis Shaw, Homestead choral director and actor in the show, said. "A lot of couples are mainstays in the community theater world."

As well as starring in "Love Letters," local actor and director Jeffrey Casazza will be directing "Eurydice" at the Williams Theater at IPFW. Written by Sarah Ruhl, this play follows the classic myth of Orpheus imagined through the eyes of its heroine. The play is about Eurydice, who is dying on her wedding day and must journey to the underworld to unite with her father. The show's heroine also struggles to remember her lost love.

"The play was written quite well, and we've got great actors and actresses," Casazza said. "It really is a fresh take on a timeless love story. We've never produced anything like this yet."

> "['Eurydice'] really is a fresh take on a timeless love story. We've never produced anything like this yet."
>
> **JEFFREY CASAZZA**
> *"Eurydice" Director*

Back by popular demand, "I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda" will debut its first annual performance at the Allen County Public Library Auditorium. A nominee for the 2009 Best Fort Wayne Theatrical Performance, this returning drama depicts the meeting of two cultures through Juliette, a Rwandan refugee living in London, and Simon, a struggling novelist assigned to help her with her English writing skills.

The audience is drawn into the gritty realities war-torn countries as Simon encourages Juliette to write her personal story. Due to its subject matter, this play is rated PG-13.

"Although it's quite a political play, I'm sure it will be appreciated," Becky Smith, a coordinator with the Allen County Public Library, said. "I've seen this before and it has humor when it's needed."

Even though Fort Wayne may seem void of theatrical and musical opportunities, the city actually has a large audience base and host of chances for productions to flourish.

"It's exciting to hear about theater," Casazza said. "So many great plays are in the works for this year."

▶ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER
300 West Wayne St. • "Love Letters" Dates: Feb. 12, Feb. 13, Feb. 14, Feb. 19, Feb. 20 and Feb. 21

▶ MAIN BRANCH AUDITORIUM
900 Library Plaza • "I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me By a Young Lady From Rwanda" Dates: Feb. 12, Feb. 13, Feb. 14, Feb. 19, Feb. 20 and Feb. 21

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

TAKE THREE

A SINGLE MAN Rated R
Rave

In a word, "A Single Man" is beautiful. The film moves with the grandeur and pacing of a perfume commercial, everything breathtaking, significant and constant. Fashion designer Tom Ford's first foray into the movies is a success.

The story follows George (Colin Firth), a man dealing with the death of his long-time partner (Matthew Goode) and juggling his complicated relationship with pal Charley (Julianne Moore). Firth portrays a man torn apart by loss, showing no emotion during his routine day but heart-broken and full of despair upon learning of his lover's death. However, the stream of consciousness plot takes a backseat to the vision of the film. Ford brilliantly uses colors to convey mood; whenever another person comes into George's drear life, the entire screen becomes more vivid. The score for the film, complete with heart beats and ticking second hands, only adds to the emphasis on time.

While the film is only at Cinema Center for a limited time, "A Single Man" truly blends style and substance, with a radiant – and unforgettable – result. – *Molly Zweig*

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

COVENTRY 13: No longer costs $1.00 and 50-cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $3.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie, it's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

DEAR JOHN Rated PG-13
Coventry 13

"Dear John," adapted from the novel by Nicholas Sparks, features Sparks' trademark star-crossed lovers who can't seem to catch a break. Along with the classic romance, the movie also addresses terminal illnesses, the true worth of family and learning that a first love is one that can't be forgotten.

John Tyree (Channing Tatum) is a soldier with a sketchy past, determined to fix his life. Tyree falls for Savannah (Amanda Seyfried), and the two fall in love in a mere two weeks. After writing letters religiously while Tyree is overseas, unexpected mail from Savannah leaves the audience and Tyree in utter shock. He must cope with both the loss of his true love, being sent home from the service and, later, the death of his father. Savannah and John are eventually reunited, and, in typical Sparks fashion, the audience is left with questions about their relationship.

"Dear John" could be seen as a combination of Sparks' other box office hits "The Notebook" and "A Walk to Remember," but nonetheless, "Dear John" is a tear-jerking, feel-good film. – *Kati Vail*

THE BOOK OF ELI Rated R
Coventry 13

"The Book of Eli" is best represented by how it looks. The film is gritty, washed out and highly contrasted. Paired with Denzel Washington's typical strong and silent-type protagonist and Gary Oldman's creepy bad guy antagonist, the movie looks pretty predictable. And for the most part it is. The film is post-apocalyptic sunglass land, complete with slow-pans over desolate landscapes. But don't be fooled, it has a storyline, and is less American action-heavy than "I am Legend" was. Washington does a fantastic job of keeping the audience interested throughout the entire movie; the only issue when the credits roll is "What next?"

As for the storyline, it's very average. The film carries religious overtones comparable to "The Matrix," the only issue being its shallowness. There are numerous times where the plot has visible holes, most notably towards the end. Overall, "Eli" seems to miss its point somewhere in the last half hour, and isn't generally worth the full price at Rave. However, it is the most entertaining film this month. – *Cam Kaminski*

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Two senior AP Composition students are joining eight other national finalists for the Profiles in Courage Essay Contest. 2A

LIFE
Fist-pumping fanatics share their anticipations for the recently announced second season of MTV's "Jersey Shore." 5A

FEATURE
As the Winter Olympics draws to a close, student globetrotters share their experiences with competing countries. 8A

OPINION
Sen. Evan Bayh's retirement presents a plethora of implications for both parties' midterm elections in November. 3A

SPORTS
Three back-to-back school closings due to snow have caused certain teams to rearrange their weekly practice schedules. 6A

ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net.

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BRIEFS

DANCE MARATHON GENERAL ADMISSION
Students who did not raise money for Dance Marathon are still allowed to participate in tonight's event from 8 p.m. to midnight. General admission is $5 and will be donated to the entrant's couple of choice.

OUTSIDE VARIETY SHOW PARTICIPANTS
Variety Show acts consisting of performers who have not attended Homestead or are former students must turn in their permission slips by March 5. This special form, which can be picked up in Victoria Malooley's room 416, must be signed by both a parent or guardian and Principal Rick Smith.

JCL STATE CONVENTION MEETING
Junior Classical League members must attend an after-school March 3 if they plan on participating in the upcoming state convention. The gathering will be held in room 607 and members are advised to bring their completed projects.

BOYS' GOLF MEETING
Student athletes interested in trying out for the boys' golf team must attend an informational meeting after school today in room 523.

CORRECTION
The Spartana inaccurately described the television network airing "Lost" in Issue 9. "Lost" is broadcasted by ABC. The Spartana regrets this error.

WEEKEND FORECAST

TODAY 33/26
SATURDAY 35/28
SUNDAY 36/26

it's a hard knock life

Dance Marathon participants land sponsors despite shaky economy

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Tonight marks the start of the annual 24-hour Dance Marathon to benefit the Homestead Athletic Boosters. After school today, students will attempt to locate their sleeping bags, take a quick nap, and stock up on as much Monster and 5-Hour Energy as will fit in their duffel.

For many who have participated, Dance Marathon is thought of as the most fun a student can have all year. By combining dancing, games, food and friends, Dance Marathon is one fundraiser that students are willing to contribute to because the reward is immediate. While the uninformed might think that the difficult part of Dance Marathon, staying awake, is just beginning, raising the funds to enter the competition was a struggle in itself for many participants.

Throughout its existence at Homestead, Dance Marathon has raised money for new uniforms and equipment for the Athletic Department in both good and bad economic times. Unfortunately, with the end of the recession nowhere in sight, raising the money to meet the $350-per-couple entrance fee proved to be difficult for many.

Initially, 250 students signed up for Dance Marathon, which would have been a record number of participants, but the number has since dropped to around 150. Meanwhile, the Midnight Madness Volleyball Tournament was cancelled due to lack of participation. Each volleyball team was required to raise 300 dollars, or 50 dollars per team member.

This lack of participation despite the perennial hype around Dance Marathon begs the question - what roll did the economy have in people's willingness to give?

Jessie Hanselmann (11), a two-year veteran of Dance Marathon, attempted to raise as much money as she could but still fell short of the required amount.

"Raising money seemed pretty easy this year because I actually went out and went door to door and asked for it," Hanselmann said. "I actually got a lot of small donations but I still gave a lot of my own money."

For 40 percent of those who initially signed up, the money was too much to ask, and for those not able or willing to pay the rest of the entrance fee themselves, dropping out was the clear option.

"The money was really hard to raise and I'm not sure I would have been able to get it

SEE 'DANCE MARATHON,' PAGE 2A

Above: Parent volunteers count students' donations at a pre-event meeting earlier this week. Couples were required to raise $350 together to participate in Dance Marathon.

"The money was really hard to raise and I'm not sure I would have been able to get it all. I don't really think it is going to a good enough cause."

EVE FARBER (11)
Dance Marathon Participant

Faculty, departments stir with talks of editing rules for overdue assignments

McCombs: Uniform penalties for late work guarantee 'fairness to all students' enrolled

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Students and teachers might have a new academic policy to follow by the beginning of next school year. Possible changes in department-wide late policies are now in discussion among department chairs and school administrators.

A common late policy would mean that teachers within the same department or teachers who teach the same course would accept late work for the same period of time and for the same amount of credit.

"We're trying to make sure that we're being consistent," Tom Maher, Social Studies department chair, said.

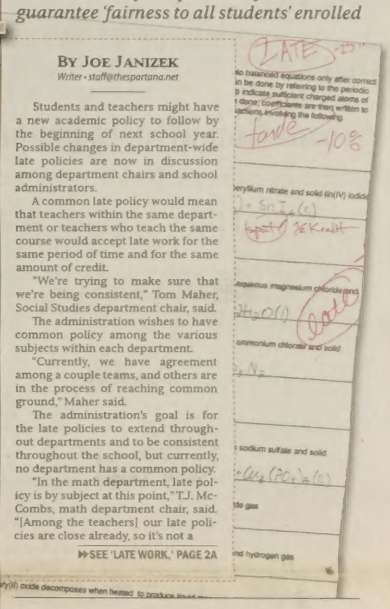
The administration wishes to have common policy among the various subjects within each department.

"Currently, we have agreement among a couple teams, and others are in the process of reaching common ground," Maher said.

The administration's goal is for the late policies to extend throughout departments and to be consistent throughout the school, but currently, no department has a common policy.

"In the math department, late policy is by subject at this point," T.J. McCombs, math department chair, said. "[Among the teachers] our late policies are close already, so it's not a

SEE 'LATE WORK,' PAGE 2A



Repeated snow delays end hopes for yearly math test

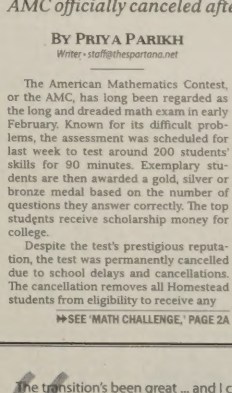


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Math department head and AP Calculus teacher T.J. McCombs packs AMC preparation materials Monday, five days after the third two-hour delay in three weeks caused the annually administered examination to be called off for good. The scholarship contest, in which approximately 200 Homestead students participate ever year, was permanently canceled due to the repeated alterations due to the regular school-day schedule.

AMC officially canceled after rescheduling

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The American Mathematics Contest, or the AMC, has long been regarded as the long and dreaded math exam in early February. Known for its difficult problems, the assessment was scheduled for last week to test around 200 students' skills for 90 minutes. Exemplary students are then awarded a gold, silver or bronze medal based on the number of questions they answer correctly. The top students receive scholarship money for college.

Despite the test's prestigious reputation, the test was permanently cancelled due to school delays and cancellations. The cancellation removes all Homestead students from eligibility to receive any

SEE 'MATH CHALLENGE,' PAGE 2A

"Hopefully we'll have better luck next year. The test is incredibly hard, but students talk about the problems and how to solve them afterward."

T.J. MCCOMBS
Math Department Head and AMC Coordinator

Sterling Sentinel contestants prepare for March interviews

Qualifiers compete in 14 fields of study for scholarship money from area newspapers

By Dan VanDeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

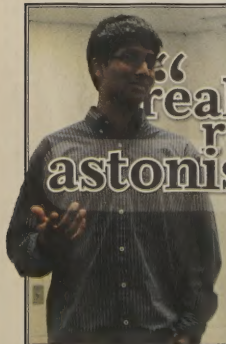
One of the recurring elements in a senior's high school life is scholarships. Many scholarships exist for many different reasons, some of which are more prestigious than others. One such scholarship in the Fort Wayne area is the Sterling Sentinel scholarship, which is awarded to students throughout Indiana who excel in a specific area. This scholarship is awarded by the News Sentinel, one of Fort Wayne's two professional newspapers. According to guidance counselor Tom Quigley, it is considered to be a very prestigious scholarship, and the students who are selected receive a certain level of fame in their area.

"[The scholarship] obviously gets a lot of publicity because it's associated with the Sterling

SEE 'INTERVIEWS,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Quinn Brenneke (12), the Sterling Sentinel nominee for foreign languages, rehearses his answers with Spanish teacher Justin Peeper on Monday, less than three weeks before interviews are scheduled. Brenneke is one of 14 Homestead students eligible for the $1,200 scholarship awarded by Fort Wayne newspapers the News-Sentinel and the Journal Gazette.



"really really astonishing"

Chintapalli thanks faculty, medics who responded to shock

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

During first period on Thursday, Feb. 4, Homestead student Abhishek Chintapalli (12) collapsed in Bekki Vail's AP Biology class. The swift rescue that followed and Chintapalli's subsequent recovery were the result of the quick thinking and training of several administrators and faculty at Homestead. On Wednesday, Feb. 24, a party was held during seventh period to celebrate Chintapalli's full recovery. Chintapalli, his family and all of the faculty members who played a role in helping Chintapalli gathered to express their delight.

When Chintapalli collapsed suddenly, Vail immediately assessed the situation and sent two students running to the nurse. Within a matter of minutes, the administration, nurses and other faculty shifted into emergency response mode. When janitor Joe Meyer heard the need for a defibrillator over the walkie-talkie system, he ran to Vail's room with an automated external defibrillator (AED). School nurse Beth Quigley administered CPR and school nurse Maria Lund quickly administered a shock to Chintapalli. This AED shock possibly saved Chintapalli's brain function and even his life.

"To come to the rescue that fast, that kind of response was really, really astounding, and I think it made all the difference," Chintapalli said.

SEE 'RECOVERY,' PAGE 2A

"The transition's been great ... and I can't thank everyone who has been part of it enough."

ABHISHEK CHINTAPALLI
AP Biology Student

The defibrillator that saved Chintapalli's life is displayed at the Wednesday gathering in the community room.

PHOTOS BY BEN MARSELL

Coplen: Per-student funding at 10-year low

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

At the most recent Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) board meeting on Feb. 16, grim news of the state education budget was delivered amongst discussions about summer vacation and the future of the summer school program.

Although the January 2010 cash balance is $1.5 million higher than the Jan. 2009 balance, the district continues to operate on a strained budget. District funding has been reduced by $1.7 million, which has lowered funding per student. This change is the result of an overall statewide education budget cut.

"Our per-student funding is down to a level below [our per-student funding in] 1999," said business manager Jim Coplen.

This $1.7 million sum amounts to about a 4.5 percent reduction in the SACS budget. To compensate for the reduction and other statewide cuts, the state as a whole needs an additional $1.1 billion to continue to fund Indiana public schools the same way that they have been funded in the years past. Unfortunately, the cuts show no sign of stopping soon, and SACS is expected to undergo another 1.5 percent budget reduction in January 2011.

The cuts are expected to continue for several more years.

"This is not a one-year [cut]...This will be drawn out," said John Blum, president of the school board. "We're looking at five to six years until we are back to how we were... [this is] not a short-term fix."

The board also discussed this year's upcoming summer break at the meeting.

After compensating for snow cancellations, the last student day of school is expected to be June 10, a one-day extension from the initial last day.

Summer school is expected to be offered again this summer for high school students. Courses offered during summer school will include Algebra, Geometry, all grade-level English courses, World History, Physical Education, and Concert Band. Driver's Education will also be offered as a self-supporting class.

Summer school has been reduced in size but remains important to students.

"[Summer school] is the only way some students get back on a 4-year track," said Nancy Carey, assistant superintendent of SACS. "However, we can't get enough student interest [to expand it]."

The cost of summer school in 2010 is expected to be $88,000, and assuming that the state reimburses the district with 65 percent of total expenses, summer school is expected to cost $30,800 to the district.

Seniors' national placement in essay contest earns kudos for English department, teachers

Composition students honored for Profiles in Courage submissions to John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

▸▸10,000
dollars are awarded to the first-place winner of the Profiles in Courage Essay Contest.

Two students' entries to a national essay contest are generating attention, both for the students and for the English department.

Kelly Miller (12) and Sarah Kusisto (12), along with the rest of their AP Composition class, submitted essays to the Profile in Courage Essay Contest, which is run by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. Based on their submissions, Miller and Kusisto were selected as 2 of the 10 finalists.

For the contest, students write "an original and creative essay of less than 1,000 words that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in 'Profiles in Courage,'" according to the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation's website.

The winner of the contest receives a $10,000 scholarship and is invited to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston to receive his or her award.

"I wrote about Joseph Cao, a member of the House of Representatives, and the only Republican to vote in favor of health care reform," Miller said.

English department chair Connie Christophersen echoed the landmark honor for both the writers and school.

"There has been a Homestead student in the top 10 every year that we have entered, but this is the first time we have had two finalists," she said.

In addition to her position at the head of the English department, Christophersen also teaches the two finalists in her AP Composition class.

▸▸DANCE MARATHON CONTINUED FROM 1A

all," Eve Farber (11) said. "I don't really think it is going to a good enough cause. I think cancer or Haiti is more important."

Despite the high drop-out rate, the 150 students still participating raised a total of $26,250 for the athletic department on their entrance fees alone. After all the fundraising work, these dedicated students are looking forward to spending the next day dancing themselves in delirium.

"We really want to reward the kids for going out and getting the money, because we realize it's tough," Buffy Thomas, an event organizer, said. "We're going to have more games open in the gym from six to midnight where students can go play basketball and have volleyball tournaments that they sign up for at the event."

While the students have worked to raise money for the past month, a team of 10 parent volunteers has worked tirelessly since the beginning of November to make Dance Marathon a success.

Many local businesses also become involved by helping to feed four meals and four snacks to the 150 participants. This year, the local restaurants donating food include Pizza Hut, Flannigans, Outback Steakhouse, Dunkin' Doughnuts, McDonalds, Arby's, Casa, Espresso Gallery, Burger King, and Bob Evan's.

"I'm so excited," Hanselmann said. "It's always so fun to just let go and clown around for 24 hours."

Promotion efforts propel dance event success

Team members rely on YouTube, spirt shirts to advertise

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The Homestead Varsity Dance Team held their annual Homestead competition this past weekend. The day served as a fundraiser for the SACS Dance Teams and a day for the team members' fellow students to watch and support the team at their only home event.

As they have in previous years, the Varsity Dance Team sold spirit shirts that doubled as admission tickets for the competition. The team hoped that the admission shirts would encourage students to go to the competition since students would no longer have to pay a ticket fee as long as they wore their shirts the day of the competition.

"We want to get everyone pumped like they are at a sports event," Rachel Rifkin (12) said.

The girls also advertised for the competition by making posters and a promotional video that was posted on Facebook and YouTube as well as broadcasted on the morning announcements the Friday before the competition.

The girls' advertising efforts paid off as friends and family came to the competition. As the day wore on, the gym eventually filled to the point where there was only standing room left. Though the team's hope of having a group of "painters" did not come to fruition, the massive show of support for the team did not go unrecognized.

"I think this is the best season we've had since the team started," said Laura Aleman (12). "[The team's] really close, and it's been a great year."

During the competition, the dance team was busy setting up for the competition, helping visiting teams and performing for the guests of the competition.

"We greet the [visiting] teams, act as guides, manage scheduling, manage the music and manage food," said Clarissa Root (12). "We have to multitask, and parents help."

Visiting high schools include Snider, Concordia, Northrop, Carroll and other schools from outside of Fort Wayne.

While the team could not compete for placement at their home competition, this weekend was an important practice opportunity for the Varsity squad as they enter the final stretch of their competition season.

Tomorrow, they will travel to Concord High School to compete in the Indiana North Regional Competition. Following the regional competition, the girls will fly to Orlando, Florida next weekend to compete at the national level. Their dance season will conclude on Mar. 13 at the state competition at Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis.

The team's dances this year include The Beatles' "Let It Be" for jazz, Ingrid Michaelson's "Sort Of" for lyrical, and a techno mix entitled "Shake That" for pom.

The team is excited for the remaining competitions but feels the pressure of defending their state title in lyrical and their national title in jazz. Equally important for the team is their goal to improve their placement in pom, which earned them sixth place at state last year.

"There's a little more pressure at nationals because we won jazz nationals before, but we want to do better in pom placement," said Coach Leah Stupeck. "We're very excited and we want the audience to feel the warmth and energy."

"We're excited to be together and to compete," said Rifkin. "I think we can win."

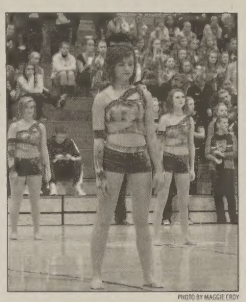


PHOTO BY MAGGIE CROY

Clarissa Root (12) prepares for the team's routine to begin last weekend, when Homestead hosted other regional squads for a yearly event.

▸▸LATE WORK CONTINUED FROM 1A

huge issue."

This year, the school has no official late work policy, and the student handbook contains no mention of late work in the academic policy section.

"The major reason for a department-wide policy would be fairness to all students," McCombs said.

The department chairs have received complaints from students about varying policies, and they propose that a department-wide policy would solve the problem.

Students, however, are expressing mixed opinions about the possibility of department-wide policies.

"I think that there would be good things and bad things," Hunter Brutton (10) said. "Knowing what to expect would definitely be good."

While students and teachers agree on the positive aspects of a potential policy, students see a potential drawback. A consistent policy might cause teachers to be less flexible with accepting late work, which might create problems for students who are ill, vacationing or procrastinating too long.

"It would be bad if [the policy] hurt grades because of less time to turn in late work," Brutton said.

In recent months, the late work policy discussion has become more serious.

"Talks started at the end of the last school year, before I was department chair," Mark Lenfestey, Science Department chair, said. "The departments are now discussing this issue during meetings. We met on Wednesday to discuss the topic."

Although policies are being discussed now, new policies would take time to implement and therefore would likely not be enforced during the 2009-2010 school year.

"Any policies would go into effect in the fall of the next school year," McCombs said.

Ultimately, the purpose of a potential uniform late policy for each department – or at least similar classes taught by different teachers – is to benefit individual students.

"The bottom line is that we don't want a situation where grades could be adversely affected by divergent policies among teachers of the same course," Maher said.

> "The bottom line is that we don't want a situation where grades could be adversely affected by divergent policies among teachers of the same course.
>
> **TOM MAHER**
> *Social Studies Department Chair*

▸▸MATH CHALLENGE CONTINUED FROM 1A

scholarship money from the competition. Instead, students will receive test booklets in class. Teachers will provide answer keys if students are interested in checking their work.

Even though the test is only administered to Honors students and is compulsory only for those in Honors Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry, many students believe that the test is "impossible" and resent having to take it.

"I'm not that disappointed that the AMC was cancelled, but the experience would have been helpful if it wasn't cancelled," Tiffany Musser (10) said.

While some students view the test as a worthwhile experience, others view it as only time taken out of the normal class period.

"I'm just glad that we had those delays to cancel the test because I thought the AMC was unnecessary," Peter Bowman (10) said.

Most students were not upset about the test's cancellation, but others who had hoped to gain the experience of the test will have to wait until next year to test their math skills in the areas of advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, critical thinking and problem-solving.

"Hopefully we'll have better luck next year. The test is incredibly hard, but students talk about the problems and how to solve them afterward," T.J. McCombs, AMC test administrator and math department chair, said. "So even if they don't completely understand the problem or don't do extremely well on the actual test, the fact that they are discussing the problem and the strategies that they used to they to solve the problem enhances the mathematical thinking among our students."

Although students are generally apathetic about the test, the unique challenge it provides – and monetary reward it offers – cannot be ignored.

"We have ranked pretty well with the team scores in the past years," McCombs said. "It's a neat opportunity for students to have a different type of math test to really apply problem-solving skills and to end up getting some recognition from it, maybe even scholarships."

▸▸INTERVIEWS CONTINUED FROM 1A

Sentinel," Quigley said. "They promote the scholarship a lot, so all the nominees get their pictures in the paper. It is an award that's worth over $1,200, which is nice. Students can then use that money for anything they want that is related to education. It's a really nice scholarship."

Students who are nominated for the scholarship have great passion for their respective subject and are very skilled in the area. Jake Rupp (12), for instance, is very passionate about public speaking and was accordingly nominated for the Sterling Sentinel scholarship in that category because of it.

"I've always had a passion for communicating in front of people," Rupp said. "When I was four, I gave a five-minute speech at my church in front of 2,000 people ... I just have fun with what I do. So maybe that's why I was nominated."

The Sterling Sentinel scholarship is more than just a scholarship to some students. It is an award that proves to themselves and to others that they are truly excellent in a certain area.

"I really want it," Carson Royer (12) said. "Of course, it's a scholarship, but it's more about pride. I'm representing all of Homestead, competing against the best actors from all the area high schools."

Being nominated for the Sterling Sentinel award is a huge accomplishment in itself, but being one of the finalists who receives the award is an even bigger achievement. However, to become one of the finalists, nominated students must conduct an interview with the judges.

"Because my nomination is in foreign language, half of my interview will be English and the other half will be in Spanish," Quinn Brenneke (12) said. "I have been working really hard in Spanish class and I try to speak Spanish every chance I get. I have also been practicing basic interview techniques."

While the nominees don't wish to appear overconfident, a certain sense of confidence is needed to pass the interview and receive the scholarships. The nominees try to stay positive, but they remain aware of the high-caliber students against whom they are competing.

"I would like to think that I have a good shot of winning," Courtney Blosser (12) said. "I also know that there are a lot of other students in this competition too. I know a few of the representatives from the other schools as well and I'm close friends with them. They are truly talented people, and really anyone could win this."

The Sterling Sentinel nominees will conduct their interviews March 8, 9 and 10. The winners of the scholarships will be announced at the Sterling Sentinel ceremony, which will be held on April 21 at the Embassy Theatre.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Abhishek Chintapalli (12) chats with Principal Rick Smith at an informal meeting earlier this week. At the get-together, Lutheran Hospital staff thanked Homestead faculty for responding swiftly to Chintapalli's mid-day collapse.

▸▸RECOVERY CONTINUED FROM 1A

At the party, everyone involved in the first response to Chintapalli's collapse told him their role in his rescue. Everyone expressed their deepest joy and relief that he has experienced a full recovery after such a frightening situation.

"I checked for a pulse, and I kept checking myself to make sure I was doing it right," Assistant Principal Steve Lake said at the party to a round of laughter. "I'm glad we can laugh about it because I've never felt so helpless in my life."

After everyone involved had shared his or her version of what happened, Principal Rick Smith read a letter from Chintapalli's mother that expressed her deepest gratitude.

"Abhi's doctors told us that even a trained health care team would have done no better [at rescuing Chintapalli]," Smith read.

Chintapalli's recovery in the hospital was swift and, aside from minor surgery, went without major complication. Though he has lost eight to ten pounds, Chintapalli is confident that he will gain the weight back from eating at the many parties that have recently been thrown in his honor.

"My friends have been really good about it, and my teachers have been really cool about all the work I missed," Chintapalli said. "The transition's been great... and I can't thank everyone who has been part of it enough."

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

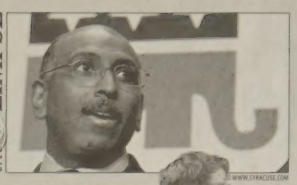
Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

NSPA The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE



Republican fundraising letters were sent to New York state residents earlier this week bearing the name of GOP chairman Michael Steele. The misleading mailouts, which are labeled with the phrase, "2010 Congressional District Census," have caused residents to question the party's tactics in requesting donors. After frustrated callers flooded an Empire State representative's offices, a House spokesperson urged Americans to still "fill out the official Census."

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

evolution of plan

In a move that might lead to funds from Race to the Top, the Indiana Department of Education revealed their new plan for identifying student and school progress. When added to No Child Left Behind and Indiana's Public Law 221, this plan will result in three Hoosier systems to gauge public school progress.

By juxtaposing students to others with comparable ISTEP+ scores, the model places districts, schools, and students into one of four sectors: high achieving/low growth, high achieving/high growth, low achieving/high growth, or low achieving/low growth. For instance, low achieving/ low growth means a school has made little improvement to already low scores.

Said Bennett, "We believe that what gets measured gets accomplished. That's a big component of our reform initiative." The change, Bennett believes, will identify strengths and weaknesses in the classroom to assist teachers.

Moreover, the Department of Education will eventually have website access for parents to monitor their children and school.

A commendable program, it might bring in federal funds from Race to the Top if successful in raising test scores. Linking teacher evaluations to student performance is another aspect that Race to the Top awards money for; we believe such evaluation holds inferior teachers responsible, and the Indiana Department of Education should utilize these measures.

While such action is not crucial to Homestead, other schools are in dire need; these evaluations could assist in firing inept teachers, an action which unions and tenure often prevent. In a recent, extreme case, Superintendent Frances Gallo fired all unionized teachers at one of the worst-performing Rhode Island high schools. They refused to accept a reform plan which would add 25 minutes to the school day, as well as requiring them to tutor students occasionally (the firing's legality is currently being questioned, as negotiations with the union are usually required).

Homestead's teachers are certainly and already excellent – as for the new monitoring plan, it can only help.

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{THE BOTTOM LINE} *The Indiana Department of Education's introduction of a four-classification system can only build upon the preexisting academic excellence at Homestead.*

PHOTOS BY BEN MARSELL

'Flimsy, proofless' notions hindering stem-cell work

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

The single-handedly most misguided, backward-moving action in George W. Bush's career was, without the slightest shadow of a doubt, his veto of stem cell research. Prejudiced by religious and personal ideals, Bush selfishly failed to act in the greater interest of the people.

According to the National Institute of Health, transplanted stem cells can accomplish feats such as mending congested hearts. Bioscientists even conjecture that a cure for cancer is possible, hypothesizing that stem cells could secrete a beneficial growth hormone, causing diseased cells to reproduce healthily.

With such numerous and advantageous outcomes, it is utterly inconceivable as to why anyone in their right mind would oppose such a profitable initiative. The truly reprehensible aspect of this sad scenario is the fact that many members of the opposition resist stem cell research solely on personal (and often religious) grounds. How is it at all their place to use biased reasoning so as to villainize a heroic effort? How does it keep them awake at night if those who would otherwise be terminally ill or dead are miraculously healthy? Attempts to stymie the future of science are appalling and invasive.

▶▶60
percent of Americans believe that embryonic stem cell research is "morally acceptable," according to a Gallup poll approximately one year ago.

According to Scientific American, embryonic stem cells are harnessed from a blatocyst, a developing embryo no larger than one-hundred cells. In order to successfully extract the cells, the embryo must be terminated. Embryonic cells are pluripotent, meaning that they are able to create all cell types, but in order to continue researching without conservative interference, scientists have developed iPS (induced pluripotent stem) cells, which are mature cells reprogrammed to feature pluripotence.

Those who backwardly insist that terminating an embryo terminates a human life encourage scientists to move forward with iPS cells. According to Scientific American, iPS cells mature far too rapidly and often die prematurely. The only feasible option for conclusive findings is embryonic research.

> "Above all else, what is entirely bewildering in stem cell critics is their intolerant complacency to remain so vehemently opposed to saving lives."
>
> ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
> *Life Editor*

An embryo is not a human life; it is a cluster of cells. It is a fetus, not a child. It is as much a person as an inanimate object and has as much of a soul as does a pencil shaving. It is a group of human cells, not a human being. Many argue that embryonic cells promote abortion, which is a wildly untrue conclusion- women do not abort fetuses for scientific research. Abortions will occur unchecked of legislation, so why not put those cells to a beneficial use? Abortion is an unfortunate situation, but a realistic and entirely rightful one nonetheless. Embryonic stem cell research gleans goodness from regrettable circumstances.

Science cannot be hindered by or progress based upon the flimsy, proofless notions of unpróven religious dogma. Church must remain separate from state, and as stem cell research would be federally funded, all spiritualism must be discounted. With that argument disregarded, one cannot possibly argue against stem cell research. Above all else, what is entirely bewildering in stem cell opposers is their intolerant cómplacency to remain so vehemently opposed to saving lives.

GOP mail fraud typical of party trend of sleaze

Republicans' Census-like letters unsurprising tactic

BY CELIA GRUNDMAN
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

"Congressional District Census. Do Not Destroy: Official Document. Census Tracking Code: #A10GD166. Oh, by the way: commissioned by the Republican National Committee."

Mailed out under the guise of the upcoming U.S. census, the GOP's recent fundraising and survey attempts are just barely legal–but sleazy nonetheless. Said RNC spokesman LeRoy Coleman in response to widespread criticism, "the document clearly indicates that it is an RNC mailer. The purpose of this document is to gather Republican opinion from across the country and raise a little money." Then why the guise? And why are so many Democrats (including Montana's Democratic governor Brian Schweitzer) receiving these mimicries?

"You're trying to leverage the most valuable commodity – other people's money. This is obviously piggybacked on a lot of advertising around responding to the real Census," said Mark Weiner, the founder of Winning Mark, a progressive-leaning direct-mail campaign consultant.

Some people may scoff, believing the fine print declaring the RNC to be the sponsor obvious – but by purporting to be "official" and "census" material, these mailings reap second glances and more responses from susceptible people. Myopic old folk and newer citizens unfamiliar with the census format may be baffled. Clarissa Martinez of the National Council of La Raza, whose informational campaign seeks to spur inclusion of the complete U.S. Hispanic population in the 2010 census, said "It could have the effect of confusing people who get it. It says it's an official document."

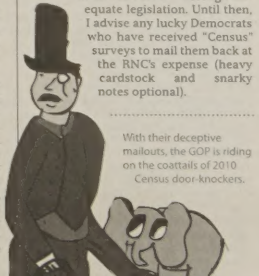
Sure, most people will understand the mailings' origins at once and have a good snicker (as I did), but it's still nearly as scuzzy as Senator Bayh pulling a Palin and stepping down for (what I suspect) are purely political motives. Oh, Evan Bayh. Oh, Michael Steele. Sigh. Within the RNC Chairman's cover page alone are a whopping three urges for "$25, $50, $100, $250 or even $500 along with your 2010 Congressional District Census."

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service ruled the surveys to be legal. Lamentably, under the Deceptive Mailings Prevention Act of 1990, only an indubitable federal organization impersonation is unlawful – by skirting the bare limits, the RNC has perfected their subterfuge. The GOP had similar mailings in 2000, with a similar investigation resulting, and with similar results: no government agency seals or full "U.S. Census Bureau," then no condemnation. The surveys even had census tracking codes, for goodness' sake!

Carolyn Maloney, a Democratic congresswoman from New York, filed the "Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act" on February 10, hoping to prevent future prevarication on the part of any political party (although the Democratic National Committee claims it has never mailed anything Census-esque).

These mailings recall the crass misuse of robo-calls by both parties in the past, such as those during the 2006 campaigns when the Republican party used constant bombardment to the frustration of Democrats and voters alike. One weepy lady in Ohio informed the Washington Post that incessant robo-calls kept her line closed to hospice workers caring for her terminally ill mother. While states have hodgepodge restrictions for political robo-calls, Indiana is one of the few where they are illegal.

With luck, this mailing mockery will be resolved like political robo-calls in Hoosier land – through adequate legislation. Until then, I advise any lucky Democrats who have received "Census" surveys to mail them back at the RNC's expense (heavy cardstock and snarky notes optional).



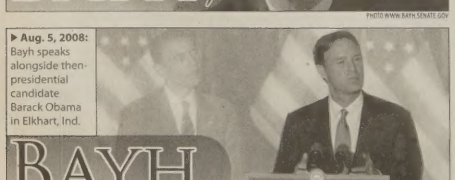
With their deceptive mailouts, the GOP is riding on the coattails of 2010 Census door-knockers.

ILLO BY CAM KAMINSKI

▶ **Nov. 5, 2004:** Democrat Evan Bayh is reelected to the U.S. Senate with 62 percent of the vote.

BAYH,

PHOTO WWW.BAYH.SENATE.GOV

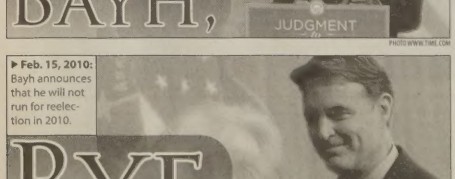


▶ **Aug. 5, 2008:** Bayh speaks alongside then-presidential candidate Barack Obama in Elkhart, Ind.

BAYH,

JUDGMENT

PHOTO WWW.TIME.COM



▶ **Feb. 15, 2010:** Bayh announces that he will not run for reelection in 2010.

BYE

PHOTO WWW.WASHINGTONTIMES.COM

Senator's exit could ensnare state Democrats

BY CHRISSY VERHOFF
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

After serving for 12 years in the Senate, Senator Evan Bayh, D-Ind., announced on Monday that he will retire, and does not seek a third term. Although this decision reflects his negative opinion toward the recent actions, or lack of actions, by Congress, Bayh's unexpected retirement has left fellow Democrats with little hope of winning midterm elections.

Bayh said during his announcement on Monday that his decision was personal, and the decision to retire "has been growing in [his] mind for some time." Bayh's main reason for his decision is the excessive partisanship in Congress. He said during his announcement, "There is too much partisanship and not enough progress – too much narrow ideology and not enough practical problem-solving." And this is true – Congress will achieve nothing unless members put aside their differences and find realistic solutions, which is sadly not the case recently; therefore, Bayh's reasoning seems sound. His frustration with Congressional tendencies is not surprising, but honestly, what did he expect? Congress has its flaws, which anyone can notice, but does that justify the retirement of every disgruntled legislator? Instead of simply avoiding the issue, Bayh should have at least attempted to find a solution.

Moreover, Bayh's decision will undoubtedly affect the November election this year. Dan Coats, former Indiana Republican senator, now has an increased chance of winning the election, thanks to Bayh's last-minute retirement. According to polls, Bayh was leading by twenty points just days ago, and had a fair chance of defeating Coats. His sudden decision has left Democrats with an unanticipated vacancy in the ballot, meaning a new Democratic candidate must be chosen in a short amount of time. Several possible candidates are being considered, including Rep. Brad Ellsworth, D-8, Rep. Baron Hill, D-9, and Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-2, among many others.

The effects of Bayh's decision will reach much farther than Indiana, however. Now categorized as a "toss-up," Indiana's election for the Senate seat has an equal chance of being won by either party. Other states that could end up with either a Democratic or Republican Senator include Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Depending on the outcome of all of these elections, there is now the realistic possibility of a Republican majority emerging in the Senate. Although this is not a likely outcome, Bayh's decision only increases the chances for a Republican majority. With Bayh's decision not to seek a third term, and the list of states in the same position as Indiana, who knows what November's elections will bring?

the facebook crawl

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook. Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "What are you sacrificing for Lent?"

Aileen Richardson ▸ "Soda, snacks and desserts."
Brad Mills ▸ "I'm giving up shame for Lent."
Bradley White ▸ "I'm a Methodist."
Alissa Baker ▸ "Sex, drugs, and rock and roll."
Clayton Jones ▸ "Ice cream."
Demri Braun ▸ "I gave up giving things up."
Allie Stanley ▸ "I'm not Catholic, genius."
Jenna Banas ▸ "Mountain Dew!"
Trent Cooper ▸ "Soda, bro."
Tom Ault ▸ "Mountain Dew, but I've failed already."
Jenny Spatt ▸ "Racism."
Rachel Rifkin ▸ "Who's Lent?"
Courtney Blosser ▸ "Shopping."
Gabby Denning ▸ "Soda."
Colleen McArdle ▸ "Cursing."
Teresea Busse ▸ "Fast food."
Evan Rhoades ▸ "Pop."
Ayesha Syed ▸ "I'm Muslim."

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Today, one of the fastest growing Facebook groups made specifically for Homestead students is "The Benjicast." Ben Griffith (11), the creator of the group, makes predictions for the schedule of the SACS school system at night for the following day. Although his odds change due to hectic Indiana weather, Griffith has gained popularity and a growing following on Facebook. Along with making predictions, he posts the actual schedule each day.

[LIFE@THESPARTANA.NET]

Pre-career paths give students real world experiences

Third quarter is fully underway, and underclassmen are beginning to decide what courses they will be taking in the year to come. While classes at Homestead are the finest in the county and even in the state, alternative course work is an option for upperclassmen that is not encouraged as much as it should be. I highly encourage those students who feel a strong desire to spend time outside of the Homestead building to pursue any of the options student services has to offer.

Personally, I chose to do higher education at IPFW my senior year, and have enjoyed every minute of it. I have taken classes that really interest me and have gotten some credits for my intended major. The freedom granted to the student at a college level is a great experience for seniors who may be uneasy about their upcoming college decision. Experiencing a campus while still in a familiar environment allows consideration without becoming overwhelmed. I have seen what lecture classes are like, have experienced a college workload, and have been personally involved in the college atmosphere. While this is a great option, there are strict requirements a student must meet and also maintain while enrolled in higher ed courses related to GPA, and for this reason some students may not be eligible.

10 Items or Less

By Hana Svetlovics
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Another option that does not require such high GPA is the Anthis Career Center. Before this year, I had no idea what Anthis really is, but since my brother's enrollment in the fall, I have come to really admire the Center and the programs it has to offer. Anthis is a school that offers hands-on learning experiences through the teaching of technical trades. My brother is part of the Construction Trades section of the school. Other paths the school offers include Cosmetology, Law Enforcement, Automotive and Graphic Design. For students interested in following a trade, this is a way to get real experience before investing money in secondary education.

> "High school is wholly unrepresentative of the "real world." [...] Outside opportunities can give students an advantage over their peers exploration.
>
> **HANA SVETLOVICS**
> *Writer*

An even more focused path for career development is an internship. A student simply picks an agency or office and is allotted part of their school day to work under the supervision of a trained professional in any field in which the student is interested. This is a great option for students who wish to have a career in the fields of medicine or business.

If a student is unable to find an internship but would still like to work, co-op is yet another opportunity. This program allows the student to take part of the school day to work at their part-time job and receive all their pay and benefits. A class taught by Brian McNeil accompanies this field experience and requires students to practice vital job skills.

High school is brief in length and is the primary source of education for teenagers. However, high school is wholly unrepresentative of the "real world." One of these outside opportunities can give students an advantage over their peers by allowing self discovery and career exploration. Oh, and I forgot to mention that getting dismissed early every day really is not too shabby either.

hardcore parkour

Skillful travel method attracts students though used in past

By Laura Zweig
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

On an episode of the popular television series "The Office," Michael, Dwight and Andy let out a battle cry of "Hardcore parkour!" as they attempt to jump from a truck to a refrigerator to a dumpster, perform a 360 spin onto a couch and finish with a back flip in to an open trash can. Avid parkour enthusiast Cameron Dark (9) takes offense at this portrayal of his beloved pastime.

"They dumped a load on the name of parkour," Dark said. "It was so insulting to me, my family and any true parkourer."

According Dictionary.com, parkour is "a sport or athletic activity in which the participant seeks to move quickly and fluidly through an area, often an urban locale, by surmounting obstacles such as walls and railings and leaping across open spaces, as in a stairwell or between buildings."

Parkour methods originated in Africa and spread to France during World War I. Parkour is more of a mindset than a set of actions. The purpose is to train oneself to be able to overcome any obstacle, mental or physical, that one encounters. Parkour gained publicity after becoming an internet sensation in 2004 and being featured in the James Bond film "Casino Royale."

However, this dangerous activity cannot be limited to a dictionary definition.

"Parkour is a way of life," Dark said. "To define it would defeat what it is."

Dark began his parkour career at an early age.

"It was August 16, 2001. It's always a life-changing epiphany when a parkourer finds his calling."

Though his repertoire contains all sorts of moves, Dark is most proud of the double twist-triple front flip off the side of a wall that he recently mastered. His most dangerous stunt was in July of 2009, when Dark was walking down an alley and decided to jump off both walls until he reached the top.

> "You don't choose parkour; it chooses you. Once you answer the call, you have to passionately pursue it for the rest of your life."
>
> **CAMERON DARK (9)**
> *Parkour Enthusiast*

"If I had fallen, who knows what would have happened," Dark said.

Beth Quigley, school nurse, doesn't even want to think about it.

"No one should try [parkour] without the proper training," Quigley said. "We all watch people snowboarding in the Olympics and think 'I can do that.' Well, would you?"

This risky activity is all about getting from one place to another as creatively as possible. While Jim Halpert of "The Office" considers that, in parkour, point A is delusion and point B is the hospital, Dark feels differently.

"Some call it stupidity; I call it fearlessness," he said.

Dark chooses not to take safety precautions and to accept the consequences that come with parkour.

"It would defeat the purpose if I was afraid of my own stunts," he said.

For parkourers, the world is an obstacle course. Dark attributes the shortage of parkourers at Homestead to a lack of an inherited trait.

"You don't choose parkour; it chooses you," Dark said. "Once you answer the call, you have to passionately pursue it for the rest of your life."

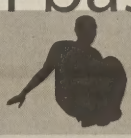
Once a person decides to take up parkour, there are a plethora of opportunities available. There are parkour competitions, even college scholarships available.

"People who do parkour are set for life," Dark said.

This rewarding, albeit challenging, hobby teaches perseverance, commitment, dedication and other skills needed to be a successful person, according to Dark.

"When I'm not doing parkour, I am trapped by the pressures of life," Dark said. "It's the only time I am free."

4 basic moves

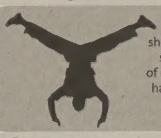


Any jump over an obstacle with a landing that ends in a somersault in whatever direction.

jump 1. Stand on the ground and jump forwards and upwards. 2. Tuck your legs into your chest forming a ball. 3. Throw arms forward to add momentum as you approach the obstacle. 4. Once cleared, focus on the landing staying on the balls of your feet. 5. Allow your body to shift forward and fall into a tuck. 6. Stay in a tight ball until the number of turns desired is complete. 7. Roll to side and push yourself into a standing position.

The action of kicking off of one obstacle to get height to clear the top of another obstacle.

tic•tac 1. Find a wall that is close to the object that you want to jump. 2. Take a few steps back from the wall. 3. Begin running 45 degrees toward the wall and try to build speed to add height to trick. 4. Jump up pushing one leg on the wall and changing your direction toward the location of the object. 5. Left up your other leg and jump over the obstacle. 6. Land on the balls of your feet and walk to slow down.



A form that shows balancing skills. This type of move includes handstands and headstands.

balance 1. Place feet square with shoulders and bend your knees to 30 degrees. 2. For a handstand, place arms on the surface and lift legs slowly into the air. 3. Hold until steady then lift one arm, only if you are comfortable with this intensity of the move. 4. Slowly bring your legs back down until your feet are back on the surface. 5. Bend legs until free to lift arms.

A movement that utilizes the upper body by pushing yourself across a long object.

dash 1. Line up in front of the obstacle you want to jump. 2. Take a running start that can allow you to make almost all of the jump. 3. Leap up and pull your legs to your chest. 4. Once halfway done with the jump, push legs in front of yourself. 5. Place hands underneath you onto the object and push yourself up with a small kick out to go over the remainder of the object. 6. Land with both feet on the ground and run until slowed.

Fans await second 'Shore' season

Students ponder slim possibility of Hoosier State setting

By Molly Zweig
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

MTV's hit show "Jersey Shore," which takes eight people from New Jersey and New York to live in the stereotypical Jersey beach town Seaside Heights, casts a very negative light on the state.

"It's all idiots who just like to drink," Kelsey Wolf, a senior at Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, New Jersey, said. "That's seriously why people come to the New Jersey Shore."

In the fashion of long-time MTV mainstay "The Real World," the one-hour show presents an ideal situation for twenty-somethings who love to party: a lavish house stocked with food and red Solo cups that the participants may inhabit in exchange for working at a menial job. The "Jersey Shore" house, complete with a balcony hot tub, roof bed and duck phone, follows this pattern as well.

> "It's funny. It's people living a life that's different than mine and that's entertaining.
>
> **KELSI STEPHENS (11)**
> *'Jersey Shore' Viewer*

After a full night of partying, the participants must work at a boardwalk T-shirt shop selling a variety of clothing items. They don't all like it.

"I feel like this job is beneath me," cast member Angelina "Jolie" Pivarnick said during her first eight-hour shift. "I'm a bartender."

In addition to Pivarnick, a colorful cast of characters with equally telling nicknames also fills the house. Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino boasts abs that cause "quite a situation" whenever women wander into the tri-state area. Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi frequently questions her roommates about the merits of putting her hair into a poof to finally be five feet tall. Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio even spends 25 minutes sculpting his hair each morning.

"My hair's windproof, waterproof, soccerproof, motocycleproof (sic)," DelVecchio said. "I'm not sure if my hair's bulletproof; I'm not willing to try that."

"It's funny," Kelsi Stephens (11) said. "It's people living a life that's different than mine and that's entertaining."

With the recent release of the Season One DVD on Tuesday, it's time for the next version of the hit show.

While the East Coast may be a prime location for such a show, Indiana also has its merits. If MTV were to cast an "Indiana Shore," the channel would need to pick a location with the same boardwalk beach appeal mixed with elements of traditional and stereotypical Indiana. For many, the first place that comes to mind is Monticello, home to Indiana Beach.

"There's nothing to do there," Stephens said, criticizing Monticello. "No clubs and no beach."

Stephens said that because there are no nightclubs, cast members would have to "TP someone's house" for evening entertainment. Despite being devoid of entertainment, the cast could have a camera-person drive them to Chicago or a nearby metropolitan center flush with clubs or casinos.

Many Indiana residents may have concerns about what sort of reputation the hypothetical show would bring to the state. New Jersey has received criticisms of how the state is portrayed as simply a seasonal party spot on the show.

"The [state] government wants it off because that's actually what happens and they don't want people to know about it," Wolf said.

The "Shore" cast would corroborate the story. As a girl that the "Shore" boys "fish" off the street so wisely puts it, "This is not a game. This is real life."

LEARNING THE LINGO

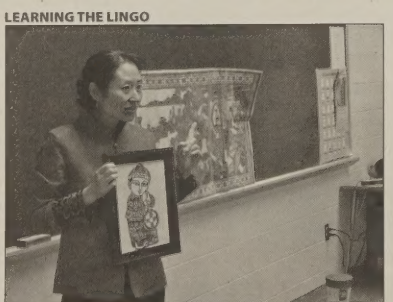


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Yan Liu, a Chinese language teacher, shares artistic culture with the students as they begin their 10-week class. Chinese and Japanese classes are offered by the ALPHA Parent Group for SACS students. The classes are currently small in size, but have room for prospective learners. The price is $70 for each class and dates vary for each class. See page 5A.

Amy Robbins
Makeup Artist

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Haute couture designer's unexpected suicide shocks fashion world

McQueen's fashion label promises proper tribute to late designer by continuing iconic clothing line

By Alex Barnard
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Ten-inch stilettos, risky designs and high-energy shows are often the first things that come to mind when the name Alexander McQueen is mentioned. Until recently, fashion gurus would never think to mention his name in the same sentence of death, suicide and tragedy.

McQueen always had a passion for fashion; he first jumped onto the runway scene in the spring of 1994 and has produced a new collection for every season since. Shortly after breaking onto the scene, McQueen became Chief Designer at the French Haute Couture House Givenchy; he worked there until March of 2001. In less than ten years, Alexander McQueen became one of the most respected designers in the fashion world.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, it came as a shock to those who knew of him and his label that Alexander McQueen committed suicide in his London home at the age of 40. As McQueen's career began to flourish, his shows and designs began to be known as the most extreme. His suicide was shocking, much like his designs and shows had been.

"All of his outrageous and unexpected designs will be missed," Allison Baer (11) said.

Because of the notable risks he took, McQueen was able to attain numerous awards and exceptional success. Alexander McQueen accomplished numerous achievements in his lifetime, including winning British Designer of the Year in 1996, 1997, 2001 and 2003, and International Designer of the Year in 2003.

"Every time I've read something about him, it was always positive, about his majestic tailoring and also his crazy shoes," Ayesha Syed (11) said.

> "Every time I've read something about him it was always positive, about his majestic tailoring and also his crazy shoes."
>
> **AYESHA SYED (11)**
> *Self-Proclaimed Fashionista*

On Feb. 18, one week after McQueen's death, the Gucci Group announced that collections and accessories will continue to be produced under the Alexander McQueen label. Questions had arisen as to whether the line would continue due to the fact that it had only been established less than a decade earlier in 2002.

"The best way to preserve a designer's legacy is to wear his or her designs and try to continue where they left off," Syed said.

Apart from celebrities and the wealthy, McQueen's designs were not generally well known, perhaps in part because of their outrageous nature and astronomical expense. It may be a surprise to many that all of the costumes in the Lady Gaga music video "Bad Romance" were designed by McQueen.

"His designs in the Lady Gaga video helped to begin to bring him more mainstream attention," Baer said.

Just as Alexander McQueen's designs were beginning to become more known by the general public, he abruptly ended his career by his suicide. Details of McQueen's death have not been released out of respect for his family. At the recent beginning of London's Fashion Week, he was honored with a remembrance wall where messages were posted by fans and admirers. Alexander McQueen was an icon in the fashion world, and his styles will continue to live on long after his death.

TIMELINING A LEGACY

1996: McQueen is appointed chief designer at Givenchy.

1999: McQueen attends a reception hosted by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair held before the beginning of London Fashion Week.

2003: McQueen is named International Fashion Designer of the Year by the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

2005: McQueen teams up with Puma to introduce a line of fashion-forward sneakers made out of luxurious materials.

2006: McQueen launches McQ, a denim bases line for men and women.

2007: McQueen teams up with MAC makeup brand to introduce a cosmetic collection influenced by Elizabeth Taylor in "Cleopatra."

2008: McQueen opens a freestanding store in the U.S. on Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles.

Camilla Bell wears a McQueen dress named one of the top dresses of the decade.

PHOTO: WWW.SUGARSCAPE.COM

'English Patient' exposes WWII era as enrapturing instead of tedious, bland

PageBound

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

When interested in a historical era, the common reaction is to seek a nonfictional source of information on the subject – an encyclopedia, an eyewitness account, a textbook. My reaction is to reach for a novel written during or about the period in question, to learn about the home front and the unsung heroes rather than the battles and the treatises.

As far as historical literature is concerned, Michael Ondaatje's "The English Patient" seems, to me, matchless. I previously considered WWII to be a tedious era, but Ondaatje transforms it into something enrapturing. In the tale of Almásy, the not-so English patient and disgraced cartographer so horrifically burned that he is forced to focus on the past due to a physical inability to forge a future, Ondaatje provides insight and enthrallment. Almásy is more than the wounded soldier of the textbooks and the newsreels; he is the man who willingly disowns his nation, who charts long-forgotten lands, the canvas upon which the other characters project.

The character Hana is more than an empathetic nurse; she is the character that all teenagers can connect to, a girl sobered by the harsh realities of war and torn between adolescence and adulthood.

If there is anything that historical novels seek to impart, it is the broad-spectrum truth of love; that it will transcend time, overcome circumstance, cross distances. Despite thirteen years spent halfway across the world, the character Kip continues to long for Hana until the grave. Similarly, Almásy follows the teachings of Herodotus across the inhospitable desert so faithfully that they become to him what books are to me: an intimate communion between author and reader, an artistic masterpiece, a discourse across time and space. Maps and cartography become irrelevant, the boundaries that mankind imposes upon the landscape fall away until all that remains is the transcendent connection between humans.

Kip is torn between his Indian heritage and his allegiance to the Italian countryside that served as his wartime sanctuary, between his melancholic desires to envision the Western world as alternately a faultless savior and, more accurately, a brutal murderer.

When I read historical fiction, I am as equally wrenched in two directions as Kip, torn between complacency with a dull, factual comprehension of the past and a hunger for greater insight. And I always, always choose the latter, because reading and writing and books are who I am, and I couldn't stop or be content with less even if I wanted to. Through reading about characters like Kip, Hana and Almásy, not only do I understand them, but I better understand myself.

It's not that I dislike history, because I actually enjoy it. But a textbook cannot teach one to understand the people that witnessed it. Historical fiction is not without classroom merit, either; I can't count the number of events that I've spaced on history tests, only to remember them through novels. As Jonathan Safran Foer stated, books make conversations across distances possible; be those distances historical or geographical; they bring about cultural healing and impart understanding as well as facts.

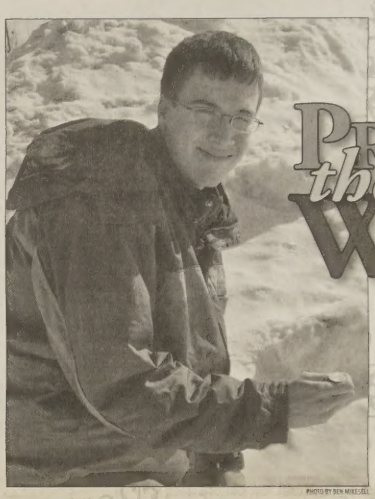


PHOTO BY BEN MIESSEL

PREDICTING *the* WEATHER

one delay at a time

Ben Griffith uses Facebook fan page to forecast closings, delays

By Tess Anglin
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Students are no stranger to winter weather rituals – fumble for the cell phone on the nightstand to call the school hotline, turn on the television to watch the list of delays, or even go so far as to stumble over to the computer and check the SACS website. Regardless of one's methodology, every student hopes for the chance of an extra two hours of sleep; due to the Benjicast, students now have another outlet for news on weather-related delays and cancellations.

The Benjicast, created by Ben Griffith (11), is a fan page on Facebook that not only provides weather information, but also predicts and informs on closings and delays in addition to posting adjusted schedules.

"I used to just post in my status every once in a while about what I thought about the weather, and then one day a friend of mine made a group for it! I went ahead and took it to the next step and made a Facebook page so I could let people know through their news feeds," Griffith said.

> "The Benjicast is an easy one-stop shop for me in the morning."
>
> **MARCUS HARELL (12)**
> *Benjicast Facebook Page Follower*

The Benjicast gained 200 fans within its first week of existence, and it presently boasts over 500 fans and growing counting.

"I saw the Benjicast on my feed [on Facebook] one day and I fanned it. Ever since, I've been able to follow along with his predictions and get excited about what may or may not happen in regards to having a delay or closing," Aaron Feneley (11) said. "The Benjicast makes me feel like a kid again."

Griffith states that, to accurately make a Benjicast prediction, he begins by going to the Weather Channel website and looking into the forecast. Next, he checks the radar to look at the direction of the storm and then further checks alerts and weather warnings to conclude his official prediction.

"The Benjicast's predictions are the one thing that keeps me going in life," Nick Ruhrold (11) said.

Other students seem to share Ruhrold's enthusiasm. Marcus Harell (12) feels that the Benjicast is simple and effortless.

"The Benjicast is an easy 'one stop shop' for me in the morning. Not only does the Benjicast provide predictions, but it will tell me what schedule I have for the day if we have a delay, and is overall extremely helpful on those chaotic snowy mornings," Harell said.

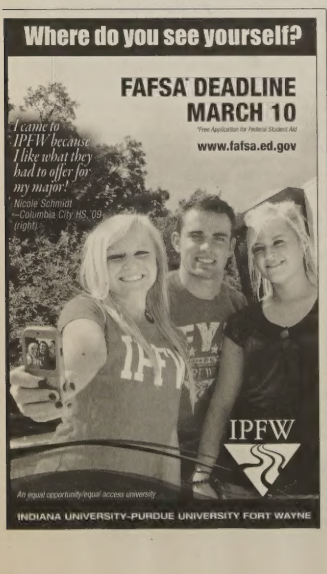
As far as the future of the Benjicast, Griffith ensures he will maintain the Benjicast at least another year while he is still in high school. He also adds that he may upgrade the Benjicast as well, possibly doing video forecasts with the radar, as is seen on television news shows.

While the Benjicast may simply just be a fan page on Facebook today, it has growing potential due to its appeal to students and its ability to not only forecast the weather, but provide useful information and be a "one stop shop" for delay and closing information.

"While I do like the Benjicast, I feel it'd be more effective if somehow the Benjicast could pop up in the notifications and show if Southwest Allen County Schools has a delay," Chelsea Noel (11) said.

While the Benjicast may still be working out a few kinks, overall, it appears to be a highly effective method for students to check if there is a delay or closing and follow along with the predictions for the fun of it. The Benjicast has revolutionized the methods of weather forecasting and will remain yet another resource to check on potential delay days.

Above: Ben Griffith (11) created the Benjicast fan page on Facebook at the suggestion from a friend. Griffith's page allows his predictions to show up on his followers' news feeds. He posts his statistical predictions as well as the actual cancellations and delays called by the district administration.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I came to IPFW because I like what they had to offer for my major!
Nicole Schmiat
~Columbia City HS, '09
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Parent group teaches foreign language, culture

ALPHA organization offers after-school mini-courses in Japanese, Chinese

By Lexi Yanez
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

It is a well-documented fact that numerous worldwide powers are statistically far more educationally advanced than the United States. With new Chinese and Japanese classes offered as an extracurricular activity, the SACS school system is making an effort to up the ante and make its students as well-prepared as those of international schools.

Since last year, Chinese has been offered for both middle and high school students. This year, the Chinese classes are taught on Wednesdays at Summit Middle School. They run from Jan. 27 to March 31. Classes start at three in the afternoon and last until four. The class term lasts for ten weeks and costs $70. The teacher of the Chinese classes is Yan Liu. At this moment, only four students are signed up to take Chinese classes, but Susan Braun, Vice President of the Finance of the ALPHA Parent Group, is hopeful that more will enroll.

"We're happy to be able to offer Chinese, as it is becoming an increasingly important language in our ever-shrinking world," Braun said.

New this year is a Japanese course. From Jan. 25 to March 29 on Mondays, Japanese classes are held at Homestead High School. This class lasts for ten weeks and is also $70. Teaching this class is Martha Martin, who has previously taught Japanese at a school in Baltimore. Eleven students have signed up to learn Japanese.

"Studying Japanese means learning a language that is different from English, that will make you rethink your most basic assumptions about the way language works," Martin said.

ALPHA Parent Group administers the after-school language classes, which are open to all SACS students and held in schools throughout the district. In addition to Chinese and Japanese classes for middle and high school students, elementary students can also study Chinese as well as Spanish, French, Latin and German.

"These language classes connect students to the global community and help them appreciate the diversity within their own community," Carla Overdahl, president of the ALPHA Parent Group, said.

Some people consider Chinese and Japanese advantageous to students as a communication tool. One reason to learn Japanese is that the Asian nation has the second largest economy in the world behind the United States. As for Chinese, upwards of a quarter of the world's total population speaks the language.

"I think people should learn Japanese because it is a fun Asian language. It makes me happy to know that some people are interested in learning it," Shiori Sasaki said.

There are several ways for students to learn Chinese and Japanese. One way students can learn the language by is being aware of their learning style. By finding whether they are auditory, visual or kinesthetic learners, they can figure out how to study the language in the most efficient way. Japanese is a patterned language that is generally taught in a systematic way.

> **11**
> students have signed up to take Japanese courses offered by the ALPHA Parent Group.

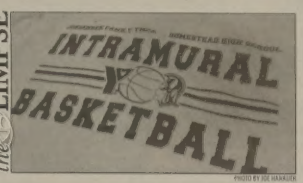
"There are so many wonderful websites with interactive, fun games and activities to help learn languages. People should use them," Martin said.

Some students decide that Chinese and Japanese will be difficult to learn, so they do not take the class, while other students decide to take a risk and just try to learn them from scratch.

"Some people may think that Chinese and Japanese will be difficult to master," Martin said. "Really, it all depends on the method in which the language is taught."

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE



With the ending of the regular season brings the March Madness of intramurals to Homestead. With a combined 20 teams from the 'A' league, and 'B' league, the first round of the tournament will start Monday, March 1. Unlike last year, the 'B' league teams will be directly fed into the 'A' league tournament, forcing them to play some of the toughest teams in the league during their first round. Less than three teams remain undefeated in the league.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Unwritten rules govern behind-the-scenes of sports funding

By Max Isroff
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

▸ **The booster club is the source of most of the money.** "About thirty to fifty thousand dollars a year comes from the booster club," said Joe Updegrove, athletic director of Homestead. "The booster club is a separate organization which raises money for the Homestead Athletics program." The money goes toward providing Homestead athletes with the best possible equipment. The booster club raises money through different levels of membership and a series of fundraisers. "This year, the booster club is raising money through a dance marathon and the selling of varsity gold cards and car wash discount cards. The community has really responded well to their fundraisers and programs and the students are benefiting," said Updegrove.

▸ **Gate receipts bring in a large sum of money for athletics.** Not including the booster club, gate receipts, or ticket stubs, are responsible for a large portion of the athletic funding. The biggest events are obviously football games, which can generate almost thousands of dollars for the program. Football games are followed closely by boys' and girls' basketball games, which can also profit a good amount of money when well attended.

▸ **State funding only covers coaches' pay and athletic maintenance.** Contrary to popular belief, the athletic program does not receive any funding for new facilities or for athletic equipment. "Money from the state is only used to pay coaches and to perform maintenance on the facilities that we already have," Updegrove said. Maintenance includes mowing the fields, lining the baseball and softball field, waxing the gym floor and other jobs as needed. In the past, the athletic program could apply to receive state money to buy new equipment or to update facilities, but new legislation has prevented schools from making requests.

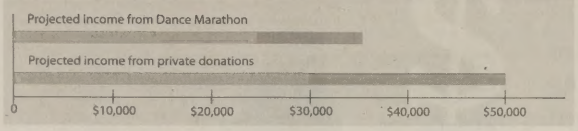
▸ **Sports receive money based on need, not popularity.** Although football and basketball bring in the most revenue for the athletic department, they don't always receive the most money for their programs. "I try to rotate the money around as needed," Updegrove said. "If the boys' basketball team gets new white jerseys one year, then the girls' team will probably get new whites the next year. Also, tennis, which makes little to no money, has to get cracks in the courts repaired, which can cost up to 5,000 dollars." It is true though that football receives the most money. However, it is not because they are the biggest moneymaker. Football has the most equipment, and their upkeep costs are higher per athlete per year than the costs of soccer.

▸ **The economy has impacted the money that the program receives.** While Updegrove reported that the program has not been hurt badly by the recent economy, the funds for the program have been impacted because many people are less willing to spend money. "Attendance is down, which hurts the money we receive from tickets," said Updegrove. "We are trying to encourage people to bring the family to sporting events, a cheaper alternative to family events such as going out to eat." The effects of the economy may not permanently hurt the athletic department if economic prospects improve in the near future, but if the economy remains as is, the athletic budget will feel the heat.

▸ **You have to spend some to make some.** "Obviously, building a new fieldhouse or improving our gym is not a viable option right now, but we need to, spend money to make money," said Updegrove. "Better facilities will bring more people out to games and allow us to hold tournaments and other fine arts competitions, all of which help to bring in lots of money." Sadly, these changes have become increasingly difficult due to the economy and to legislative changes. "You can always dream big, but it comes down to the budget and what we can and cannot afford," Updegrove said.

▸▸5,000
dollars is the maximum possible cost of repairing cracks in the tennis courts. Updegrove claimed that tennis "makes little to no money" each year.

BREAKING THE BANK



MAT MATTERS

The countdown on the wrestling room wall began to near its date, a date in which every high school wrestler in Indiana hopes that they on the mats, wrestling for the chance of being crowned state champion of their respective weight class. As for Homestead, with the counter running down a question would arise: will anyone on the wrestling team be wrestling when the clock hits zero? Last year's disappointing season in which Homestead was not represented at the state tournament inside the Conseco Fieldhouse had wrestlers wondering if anyone would be able to make it back to state anytime soon.

"Heading into the year we though that we would have more than three make it to state, but unfortunately we only had three." Keelan Rushing (11) said.

Unlike last year's end-of-season disappointment, the team had three wrestlers vying for their respective weight class title. Brad Mills (11), Keelan Rushing , and Tucker Smith (12) all competed in the two day tournament that all wrestlers look forward to competing in. – *Andrew Weiss*

Tucker Smith (12) (39-9)

Smith finished second in this year's Semi-State, behind only a Yorktown wrestler who was undefeated heading into the regional. Smith, fared the best out of all the Homestead wrestlers in his final season wrestling at the high school level with a 6th place finish. Smith was able to win his first round match, but like Rushing, lost the eventual state champion in the following round.

Spartana: How big of an accomplishment is it for you to make the state tournament in your final year as a high school wrestler?

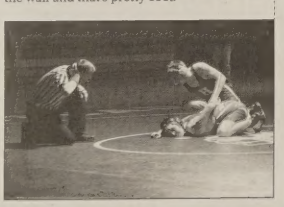
Smith: It was huge. I have been working for this my entire life and to finally do it was extremely special.

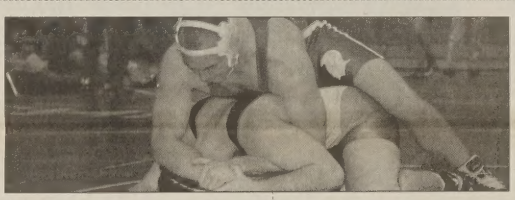
Spartana: Did you feel that your weekend was a success after winning your first match in state?

Smith: Yeah, I was really shooting for 5th, but I came up short. It was still pretty special though.

Spartana: How does it feel to get your name on the wall of the wrestling room with the dozen or so wrestlers that have placed in the state tournament for Homestead?

Smith: I am finally getting my name on the wall and that's pretty cool.





Mills punched his state tournament ticket after a successful day at the Fort Wayne regional placing third. Mills was knocked out of the tournament after being defeated by a Mishawaka wrestler in the first round. Mills was crucial to the overall team's second place finish in sectionals as he was one of three Homestead wrestlers who finished first overall in their weight class from the team.

Spartana: Where there any nerves heading into the state tournament?

Mills: "I was really nervous wrestling a guy from Mishawaka and just going to state brought nerves too."

Spartana: You prepared all week for the state tournament and then you are beaten in the first round, how disappointing is that?

Mills: "It was a little disappointing [being beaten in the first round], obviously I wanted to do better."

Spartana: How much better do you think you will be able to do in state next year now that you have been there already?

Mills: "I think I will do really well, the experience this year did help and I hope to place high next year."

Brad Mills (11) (38-5)

"I have a ton of motivation, I need to improve my offense and I will do that by going to a lot of camps this summer and hopefully I will place next year."

KEELAN RUSHING (11)
Wrestling State Qualifier

Keelan Rushing (11) (33-12)

Rushing, who placed fourth in the Fort Wayne Semi-State last year, made the state tournament after placing fourth in the 125 pound class. Rushing's season came to a close as he was defeated in the opening round of the state tournament by the eventual state champion from Warren Central.

Spartana: How disappointing was it to lose in the first round?

Rushing: "It was not too disappointing. I ended up wrestling a guy that was ranked third in the nation so I knew heading into state it would be tough. The experience does give me more to work for next year."

Spartana: After your first round opponent won the state title were you disappointed that you drew him in the first round?

Rushing: "Again it was not too disappointing I, was just glad making it to state, that was an accomplishment in itself."

Spartana: How much motivation will this give you heading into next year?

Rushing: "I have a ton of motivation, I need to improve my offense and I will do that by going to a lot of camps this summer and hopefully I will place next year."

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

YOUR TURN

The only thing more valuable than our two cents is yours. Drop us an e-mail at thespartana@gmail.com.

Cancellations give athletes rude awakenings

Snow delays, closings disrupt practice schedules for concluding winter sports

By Connor O'Hara
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

"Southwest Allen County Schools: Closed." Most of the time when these words appear on the screen of a student's television or on the school website, they are filled with joy and look forward to the new day they have on their hands, but it's not the same situation for the winter athletes at Homestead. School was cancelled last week on the Feb. 9, 10 and 11, leaving some kids overjoyed, but leaving the school's athletes missing some of the most important games of their season. The winter storm that took out three days of school also took out basketball games, hockey games and wrestling tournaments.

The Homestead hockey team, which has led one of its best seasons in ages, had a game against Snider cancelled on the Frb. 10, which led their big game against one of their biggest rivals to be rescheduled the following Saturday, the 13th.

"I was scheduled to work so I ended up missing it; but yes, it did throw off our momentum because we didn't play as well as we usually do and we had to come back to win the game with little time left on the clock," Rob Lee (11) said.

Games that are cancelled this late in the season can cause a shift in mind set, but for the Spartans, who had already played all the teams in their league at the time, knew what to expect.

"Ideally, we should show up ready to play when ever the games are," Lee said.

Sometimes when a game is cancelled, or pushed back a few days, it can turn out to be a blessing in disguise. When the event gets back, many athletes are presented with a few extra days to practice and prepare more for the upcoming game or tournament. Unfortunately, sometimes the opposite is true.

"For hockey, we only practice on Mondays and every other Tuesday, so when our game got pushed from Wednesday to Saturday it had been awhile since we were on the ice."

KEVIN KELLEY (12)
Hockey Defenseman

"For hockey, we only practice on Mondays and every other Tuesday, so when our game got pushed from Wednesday to Saturday it had been awhile since we were on the ice." Kevin Kelley (12) said.

The Homestead Spartans basketball team was the victim of a cancellation, the team's final home game and senior night was caught up in the blizzard that hit Southwest Allen County Schools two weeks ago. The game was rescheduled for Feb. 22, but as the flyers floating around school will tell you: a lot preparation went into the Spartans final home game that got pushed back.

"There were a few guys who were upset about senior night being cancelled, but I thought it was a good thing for us since we had not practiced the previous three nights in a row. With it being postponed it gives us extra time to prepare for the game," Jay Curry (12) said.

Curry, a starter on the varsity team, and one of the many seniors leaving the team this year, has to wait a little while longer before his final farewell game in front of his peers.

Some athletes feel differently about the recent cancellations.

"It can help a lot. It allows us to scout that team more and gives us more time to organize a game plan." Zach Terrell (10) said.

The final home basketball game of the season will be on February 26th and this will be the seniors' final night playing for the Spartans. The game will be against the Norwell Knights and promises to be the one of the most exciting and thrilling game of the season.

For many teams playing in the winter, it's always a gamble on whether or not they will the play their game on the day of a snow - storm. Thankfully, Fort Wayne doesn't have a reputation for being hit with a lot of snow during the winter season, but when the snow does come, it's the winter teams that will have to pay the price for Mother Nature's bittersweet surprise.

Seasoned scorekeeper recalls favorite events

After 20 years of managing gymnastics score book, Reinhard prepares for retirement

Spartana: How long have you been doing the score book for the team?

Reinhard: Twenty years.

Spartana: What's your official job with the team?

Reinhard: I record and tabulate the judges' scores, then identify and rank the winners in each event.

Spartana: What sparked your interest in doing the score book?

Reinhard: Twenty-six years ago, while teaching at Elmhurst High School, the Athletic Director communicated a need for teachers to assist with Athletic Events. Considering the reality that I am not gifted with athletic abilities, but enjoy the challenge of working with numbers and detail, I found I could best contribute to the athletic program by recording and processing statistics for gymnastics competitions. Then after learning how to tabulate gymnastics scores, I began to recognize there must be a way to use the computer to record, process, and print the scores. So in the early 1980s I designed one of the first computer spreadsheets used in gymnastics scoring tabulation using an Apple IIe and an Imagewriter dot matrix printer.

Spartana: Who got you involved with the Homestead gymnastics team?

Reinhard: At Elmhurst during the 1988-89 school year I monitored Steve Hayward, a first-year marketing education teacher. He was hired at Elmhurst on a one-year contract filling in for a teacher on sabbatical. Mr. Hayward was also gymnastics coach. So during that year I worked with him both in the classroom and at all home gymnastics meets. Then at the end of the year Mr. Hayward received a number of job offers. He accepted an offer from Southwest Allen to become Homestead's gymnastics' coach and Marketing Education Coordinator/Teacher to begin in the fall of 1989. During this first year at Homestead one of Mr. Hayward's colleagues, an accounting teacher, announced plans to retire. Mr. Hayward knew I enjoyed teaching accounting, so he contacted me several times encouraging me to apply for the position. Since I had been at Elmhurst 20 years and since he was so persuasive that I should consider a change, I applied for and was eventually offered the business teacher position at Homestead in the fall of 1990. Upon arrival Mr. Hayward asked me to compile and tabulate scores at gymnastics events in the same manner I had done for him when we worked together at Elmhurst. When one considers that Mr. Hayward was drawn to Homestead by its gymnastics program, then I was drawn to Homestead by Mr. Hayward's persistence, I conclude that had it not been for gymnastics, I would never have been here for the past 20 years–I believe it could be argued I owe my job to gymnastics.

Spartana: What keeps bringing you back each season?

Reinhard: Sharing my computer skills is my way of contributing to the success of Homestead's athletic program.

Spartana: Do you follow the gymnastics during the summer Olympics?

Reinhard: Yes, I enjoy watching Olympic gymnastics since I feel a connection; and even though I am amazed at the skill level of high school gymnasts, I am blown away by the talent and skill level of Olympic gymnasts.

Spartana: What's your favorite event to watch?

Reinhard: The balance beam. At every meet for all these years I continue to ask myself "How do they do that?"

Spartana: What are some of your favorite memories from your time with the gymnastics team?

Reinhard: Sorry, but my answer is of a personal nature. While at Elmhurst in the early 80s my four very young children always accompanied me to the gymnastics meets. Those memories are so precious. Three are now married with children of their own.

Spartana: What will you miss the most when you are done doing the score book with the gymnastics team?

Reinhard: Of course, I will miss my co-workers, coaches, and the judges I have learned to know. Also, it has been fun to watch the gymnasts grow each season. The gymnasts begin the season with rough edges that are usually polished by tournament time. It is always a reminder for me of the rewards of persistence, dedication, and practice.

PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

Chad Reinhard has been teaching business at for 20 years in addition to coaching gymnastics.

Apology a start for Tiger's forgiveness

Just shy of three months ago, Tiger Woods crashed his Cadillac Escalade the night before Thanksgiving. Rumors spread quickly about his late-night run. I heard everything from "he was going to get a burger" to "his internal clock was off because he had just flown back from Japan." He refused to make a statement, a public appearance, an explanation or anything. The world was left in the dark for 116 days, and for the first time ever, people trusted what they read in the National Enquirer. Last Friday, Tiger gave a prepared statement to approximately 40 people, including friends and family and chosen reporters. His speech consisted of apologies, explanations and pleads to the public to leave his family alone. I think the only statement needed was that which summed up his speech:

"I know I have bitterly disappointed all of you. I have made you question who I am and how I could have done the things I did. I am embarrassed that I have put you in this position. For all that I have done, I am so sorry."

CUP OF JOE

BY JOE HANAUER

Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

His speech halted the New York Stock Exchange and even had bookies in Las Vegas setting bets on what would be included in his statement. I had the "tears will roll down his cheek" bet with odds of eight to one; let's just say I'll be packing my lunch this week. And for all those people who complained that his speech was too formal or robotic, what do you expect? I'm glad he presented his speech the way he did. Would you have preferred that he show up 20 minutes late in his golf shoes with a nine-iron in his left hand and Rachel Uchitel in his right hand? A slip of the tongue, a misconstrued comment during an informal speech or an interview with 20/20 would only have fueled the fire that the media has been feeding off of the last few months.

Like always, he was in control. Whether on the golf course or behind the podium in the blue-draped room, he takes the backseat to nobody. He gave his speech and continued with his day. And if you're upset because he chose not to answer questions, ask yourself this. "What does Tiger Woods owe YOU?" The answer is nothing. He owes his sponsors an apology and he owes his family and friends an apology, but he doesn't owe the 45-year-old 16-stroke handicap on lunch break an apology. His personal life is in the spotlight, and his relationship with Elin doesn't concern you, the media or even the people in the seemingly silent room of his speech last Friday. "Please know that as far as I'm concerned, every one of these questions and answers is a matter between Elin and me. These are issues between a husband and a wife," he stated.

For those of you who counted, Tiger only mentioned golf twice during his statement. He spoke about how his wife and kids are the most important part of his life. To me, it was promising that his family is his highest priority in his dark life right now. And while it's unsure whether or not he and Elin will stay together, he said, "As Elin pointed out to me, my real apology to her will not come in the form of words; it will come from my behavior over time."

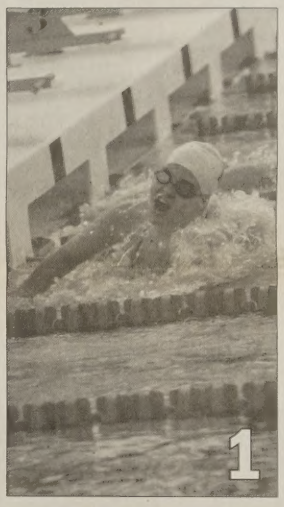
I hope that people will come to accept Tiger in the coming months, and forgive him for the mistakes that he's made. Look at the supposedly "famed" athletes that pop up on Sports Center everyday. Michael Vick, Dante Stallworth, Mark McGwire, Andre Agassi, Gilbert Arenas and Ray Lewis are all flawed. But I think the reason that everyone is so shocked to hear the allegations against Tiger is because we have portrayed him as someone who is almost more than just man. He keeps to himself and plays golf. He even named his yacht Privacy. I mean, up until last Friday, we didn't even know he was a Buddhist! For a man whose biggest criticism is that he doesn't wear anything besides red on Sundays, the last few months have been a world-altering experience. I feel as though I have learned more about him in last week's apology than I have after a lifetime of buying his video game and seeing him don green jackets a few times each year.

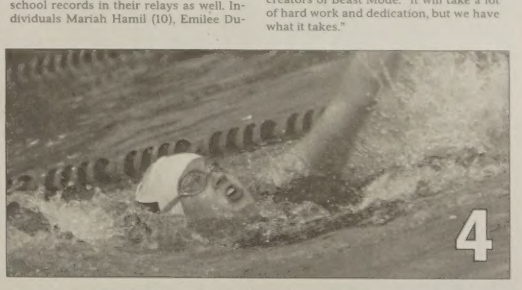
I hope to see him return to golf soon. He was meant to play golf, not spend months hiding from the paparazzi. If he thinks that his first tournament back will be smooth sailing, he's wrong. He will be heckled worse than my friend who thought it would be a good idea to wear a White Sox jersey to Wrigley Field. Winning back his fans will be more difficult than winning at Augusta, but with the right mind set, I think that people will forgive him over time and that the media will simmer.

About half-way through his speech, he said, "I once heard, and I believe it's true, that it's not what you achieve in life that matters; it's what you overcome. Achievements on the golf course are only part of setting an example. Character and decency are what really count." Preach.

Just short of EXPECTED

High hopes of fifth place at state fall short at IHSAA's fastest meet





PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

1. Emeri Taivalkoski (12) comes out of a turn 2. Tori Bagan (11) stands by her starting block awaiting the start of her race. 3. Emilee Duquette (10) comes up for air during her freestyle race. 4. Alyssa Saalfrank (11) focuses while competing in a backstroke race. 5. Courtney Klefeker (10) begins a plunge in the breaststroke.

BY BLAKE JOHNSON

Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Two weeks ago, the girls swim team met the conclusion of their championship season with a bang at the IHSAA State Finals Swim Meet in Indianapolis. Despite both strong relay and individual performances, the girls came up short of their goals for a team finish in what has been called the fastest girls meet in IHSAA history.

With hopes for an overall 5th place finish, the girl's team ended up 7th overall. Despite falling farther down than they had wanted to, they were up against some of the fastest competition in the country.

Carmel's girls swim team has won 24 straight team titles, the longest streak in the country. Carmel has also been crowned national champion twice based on digital results. With victories in all three relays and four individual events, Carmel once again proved their dominance during the finals of the State Championships.

The girl's team paved their way to success during their regular season, in which their only losses came at their largest invitational meets. Their only duel meet loss came against none other than the future state champion Carmel. "They have a lot of talent," says Mariah Hamil (10). "With over 60 girl swimmers, their size obviously gives them the upper hand." Their invitational losses came at both the Homestead Invite and the Hamilton Southeastern Invite, only falling to teams that both made strong showings at state. However, the team itself was very young this year with only four seniors on the lineup.

Taking a total of eight girls to the State Finals meet, the girls also had one of their strongest sectional meets in several years. Along with dominating their sectional meet, the girls also managed to set new school records in their relays as well. Individuals Mariah Hamil (10), Emilee Duquette (10), Raelynn Chastain (9), Kacie Taivalkoski (9) and Tori Bagan (11) qualified in their events by means of winning their sectional event or beating the automatic time cut, a time that guarantees an individual an invitation to the State meet. "It was really exciting to have worked the whole year and to have reached that goal... it is such a big meet and new experience that I just had a fun trip with the team," says Chastain. Chastain won the 200 yard freestyle at the Sectional meet and was able to swim at state.

> "It was really exciting to have worked the whole year and to have reached that goal..."
>
> **RAELYNN CHATAIN (9)**
> *Varsity Swimmer*

Friday night's State preliminary races proved to be one of the hardest nights of the year for the team, facing faster competition than at any other meets that season. With a total of six individual swims going into prelims, only three were able to come back in the top 16 from Friday night to swim on Saturday. Duquette (10) was able to return in the 200 yard Individual Medley (IM), and Bagan (11) in both the 50 yard Freestyle and the 100 yard Breaststroke.

Other girls who qualified in relays include swimmers Sarah Lohman (10), Chelsey Reber (10), and Emeri Taivalkoski (12). All three of the girls were part of the 200 Medley Relay, which finished 5th place overall with a time of 1:46.67. The 200 freestyle relay finished in 6th place with a time of 1:36.87, while the 400 freestyle relay finished in a time of 3:33.27 that earned them 7th place, along with a school record.

Several of girls already have their sights on next year, and have began their training for next year's State Championships. Coming up with the idea of "Beast Mode," a small group of the girls have pushed for the entire team to commit to training to newer and farther limits in hopes of possibly winning a state championship next year. "I think we have a chance at winning," says Sarah Lohman (10), one of the creators of Beast Mode. "It will take a lot of hard work and dedication, but we have what it takes."

FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO: WWW.LATIMES.COM

As the winter Olympic games in Vancouver come to a close this weekend, athletes will return to their respective countries to celebrate victories and the world will return to watching regularly scheduled programming. However, whether it be Lindsey Vonn's [pictured right] skiing victory, Shaun White's victory lap, or the Chinese figure skating pair, this winter's games will continued to be remembered throughout the country and around the world.

[FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET]

olympic trails

Switzerland Bekki Vail

Distance from Fort Wayne: 4,371 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 337
Athletes to Watch: Switzerland's first medal of the games went to ski jumper Simon Ammann. Skiers Didier Cuche and Carlo Janka hope to continue the country's rivalry against Austria.

Why did you go? "In 1980 my family spent two weeks in Europe.... We didn't spend the night but spent the day there."
Why does this country have such a strong Olympic program? "It's winter a lot there, with the Alps, alpine skiing, and other recreation. People in other areas tend to do more in the winter than we do in Indiana–we go into hibernation. They enjoy their time outdoors."
What changes do you think more medals will bring to the country? "Sense of pride to the country. They're a very proud nation and the winter Olympics are their Olympics and they want to do well."

Russia Hanita Epstein (9)

Distance from Fort Wayne: 4,870 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 33
Athletes to Watch: Figure skater Yevgeny Plushenko may have been upset with his silver in men's singles skating, but Russia is a serious contender for gold in men's hockey.

What were you surprised to learn? "I do speak Russian, so I was surprised to learn the slang and different usage. I was surprised to learn about the culture and history of the country."
Why should people travel there? "It's a beautiful country full of a deep, interesting history."
What is the biggest difference between there and America? "The atmosphere. In America, people smile in the streets, but in Russia, in particular Moscow, everyone has their own business. I'm not saying that Russia isn't a friendly place, it's just a different mind set."

Sweden Estelle Gustavsson (12)

Distance from Fort Wayne: 4,250 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 43
Athletes to Watch: Curling captain Anette Norberg—one of the oldest athletes competing in Vancouver—hopes to lead her team to a repeat gold.

What is the biggest difference between there and America? "Everything–food, way things are located. We don't really have malls and are not so much dependent on car. People take bikes."
Why does this country have such a strong Olympic program? "Everyone is just really into the Olympics. Big things in Sweden like ice hockey. There are long winters when many people go skiing."
Why do you think they're so good? "Really want to get the medals, fighting so hard for it. They get so much support from us back home and prepare for it all year."

Students, teachers comment on top countries at Olympics

By Molly Zweig
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

The 2010 Olympics, held in Vancouver, Canada, offer a perfect opportunity for the world to come together for competition. It's a time for pride in one's country, healthy competition and the spirit of the game. As America's 215 athletes hit the slopes and links for chances at gold, some are torn about which teams to favor. Many at Homestead have a special interest in the athletes from countries they've visited. No matter which country is slated to win, these games give any spectator the opportunity to cheer for the world.

South Korea Song Kim (10)

Distance from Fort Wayne: 6,651 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 17
Athletes to Watch: Kim Yu-Na is favored incredibly to win women's skating, following her tremendous victory at the 2009 World Championships.

Why should people travel there? "It's definitely a lot of places to visit there, like historical places, shopping centers, night life."
What is the biggest difference between there and America? "It's really small. In America, you have to drive everywhere because it's so far. There, you can go from one end of the country to the other in a day or so."
What changes do you think more medals will bring to the country? "Definitely more recognition. It's a really small country you wouldn't hear about. Winning will help them be more internationally recognized."

Canada Lindsey Crawford (11)

Distance from Fort Wayne: 341 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 38
Athletes to Watch: Freestyle skier Alexandre Bilodeau won Canada's first home gold, and the country has already immortalized him on a stamp.

What were you surprised to learn? "Not much, Canada is very similar to the U.S. At Niagara Falls, the Canadian side is built up for tourists so there is more to do and see."
Why does this country have such a strong Olympic program? "Canada has always been good at the winter Olympics. They are extra strong this year because it is held in their home country and they can support their athletes."
What changes do you think more medals will bring to the country? "More medals will help increase Canada's national pride. They should be able to do really well in hockey and curling."

Germany Emma Haverstock (12)

Distance from Fort Wayne: 4,358 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 68
Athletes to watch: Leader of the biathlon team, Michael Greis, hopes to repeat his medal performance again. Bobsledders Sandra Kiriasis and Cathleen Martini are contenders to win gold.

What were you surprised to learn? "Extremely surprised at the people who knew English. I was nine at the time and didn't think anyone would know but almost everyone spoke English."
Why do you think they're so good? "Of all the people I know that have lived in Germany, they're all extremely hard workers."
What changes do you think more medals will bring to the country? "Probably will get them some good publicity. When people think of Germany people think of the terrible things in WWII. We're never going to forget that. But Germany today wants publicity on a positive note."

France Lauren Arnold (11)

Distance from Fort Wayne: 5,073 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 25
Athletes to Watch: Snowboarder Xavier De Le Rue won at the world championships, but did not leave the year's games with a medal.

What were you surprised to learn? "I was surprised at how different it felt as opposed to the U.S. Everything seemed smaller. At restaurants, the food is smaller portions.... France is not like everything it's made up to be–there's so much more there."
Why does this country have such a strong Olympic program? "Because it's a smaller country, therefore the people that want to do it have more of a drive to do it."
Why do you think they're so good? "Because they are closer to ice and mountains and stuff as opposed to somewhere like Fort Wayne. We have to go to Denver or Canada."

Austria Mark Lenfestey

Distance from Fort Wayne: 31 miles
Gold Medals Before This Olympics: 4,627
Athletes to Watch: The women skiers from Austria have already medaled in Super-G and Downhill and Kathrin Zettel in particular is looking to place in Slalom.

Why did you go? "My grandma was a German and during WWII she was a little girl in Germany and she lived in Brehman. When the bombing got really bad they sent the kids to Salsburg. I heard stories when I was growing up."
What were you surprised to learn? "In Austria they're really put off or offended by German. They also use more formal speech. It comes off as standoffish but it makes sense."
What changes do you think more medals will bring to the country? "Make people think about Austria more and increase tourism."

PHOTOS BY BEN MINESSELI. PHOTOS WWW.CASUALTYDESIGN.COM, WWW.BRESTOSTORIES.COM

the mirador

The Mirador
Issue 4
February 26th, 2010

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13 Notes from Noah

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Musical Wonder: Susan Tsai (12) plays the violin for Homestead's orchestra, along with several other groups (pg. 3).

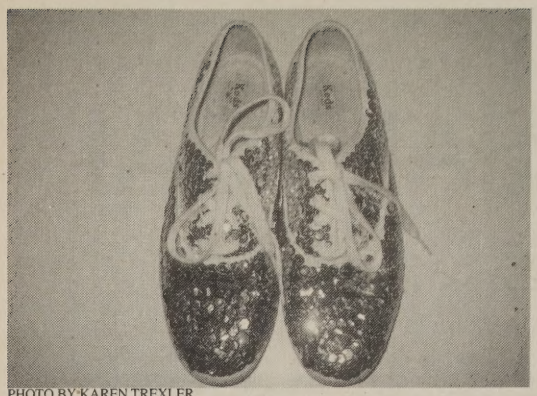


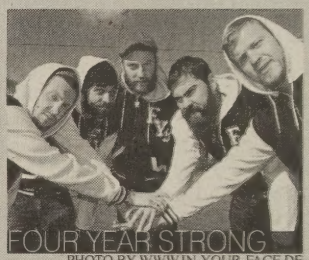
PHOTO BY KAREN TREXLER

Some Crazy Soles:
Students show off their unique footwear that accentuates their personality (pgs. 5-6).

RELEASES & EVENTS

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
PHOTO BY IMAGE3.EXAMINER.COM

JUSTIN BIEBER
PHOTO BY TOPNEWS.IN.COM



FOUR YEAR STRONG
PHOTO BY WWW.IN-YOUR-FACE.DE

LA SYLPHIDE
PHOTO BY WWW.BALLET.CO.UK

MOVIE RELEASES

3/5 Alice in Wonderland, Brooklyn's Finest
3/12 She's Out of My League, Green Zone, Our Family Wedding, Remember Me, Mother
3/19 The Bounty Hunter, Season of the Witch, The Runaways, Hubble 3D, City Island
3/26 Greenberg, Hot Tub Time Machine, How to rain Your Dragon, I Love You Phillip Morris

MUSIC RELEASES

3/2 Benjy Davis Project, Raheem DeVaughn, Peter Gabriel, Jamie Cullum, Little Boots
3/9 Four Year Strong, Gorillaz, Liars, Ludacris, Pavement, Violent Soho
3/16 Angus & Julia Stone, Drive By Truckers, Flobots, The White Stripes, Peter Wolf
3/23 Autechre, Justin Bieber, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Game, Goldfrapp, Jane Krakowski, The Scorpions
3/30 Barenaked Ladies, Mariah Carey, Drake

RICK DELLARALTA
PHOTO BY LJJM.BIZ

CONCERTS

3/13 Pieres (8PM) Rick Dellaratta $67
3/19 Embassy Theatre (7pm) Yo Gabba Gabba $39

MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Super Liquidation Sale $7
3/6 12-9PM
3/7 10AM- 9PM
3/8 11AM- 6PM
3/6 R/C Model Hobby Show (10AM- 4PM) $5
3/7-8 Gun and Knife Show (9AM- 5PM) $6 day pass

THEATRE

3/14 Grand Wayne Center (3PM) FAME Festival
3/21 IPFW (2PM) The Magical Music of Disney $12
3/27 Arts United Center (8PM) La Sylphide $25

//SUSAN TSAI

PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

Susan Tsai (12), along with being a first chair violinist in Homestead's orchestra, talks to the Mirador about why her classmates are her inspiration and how she'd love to learn the guzheng.

BY ALEX BARNARD
WRITER

Mirador: How long have you played the violin?
Tsai: I've played the violin since 5th grade so... I'm on my 8th year.

M: How many groups do you play with? Is there one that is your favorite?
Tsai: I play with Homestead's orchestra, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Indiana All-State Orchestra, Anonymous Blue, and Ghost Dad. I have to say that AB (Anonymous Blue) is my favorite because it's a lot of fun. We go to competitions on the weekends and just have a blast.

M: Do you plan to continue playing through college?
T: I will definitely try and play during college if time allows, but unfortunately I won't be majoring in music.

M: Do you have a composer or piece? Who or which one?
T: I don't really have a favorite composer or piece. Generally I like all of them, so my favorite is usually the piece I'm working on.

M: Would you say the violin is what you are most passionate about?
T: I'm not sure if violin is what I'm most passionate about, sometime it is, but right now I'm really into ceramics and trying to learn as much as I can about it before I leave Homestead.

M: Do you play any other instruments? If so which one was easiest to learn?
T: I also play the piano, and I have to say that piano was the easiest because I honestly don't remember starting playing the piano because I feel like I've played it my whole life.

M: Is there an instrument you would like to learn to play?
T: Another instrument, I think I'd really like to learn how to play the harp or the guzheng which is like a Chinese version of a koto.

M: Some people use music to take away stress or relax. Would you say that is true for you?
T: Music definitely helps me relax, it's basically my life. I wake up and fall asleep to music.

M: Do you have a particular artist who inspires you or who you idolize?
T: Hmm... Joshua Bell for violin is all that comes to mind really, and Lang Lang for piano, but my true inspiration comes from all the musicians that I play alongside with because I know their story and I know their talent (and most of them are better than me), so our friendships create this drive in me to become a better musician.

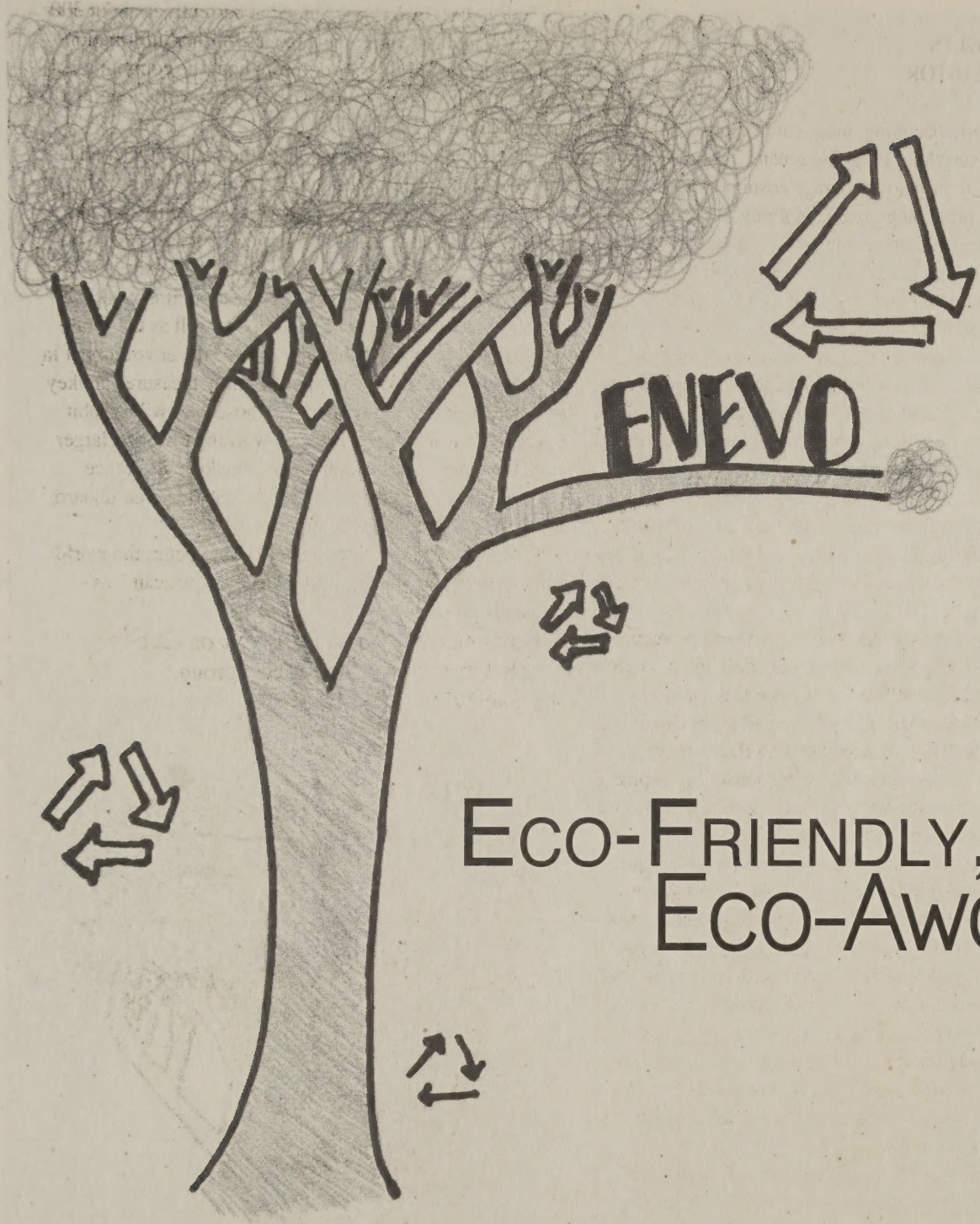
M: How often/long do you practice each day?
T: I usually try to practice even though my time is limited, but when I do practice it's at least an hour.

M: Would you like to pursue music as a career?
T: No, unfortunately I won't be pursuing it as a career, but I hope to carry it on with me in my life, because it's part of who I am and I wouldn't be the same without music.

M: How did you get started playing the violin?
T: There was a fifth grade string program at my school in Michigan where I used to live. I began playing there and because I enjoyed it, I moved on to playing in the orchestra in sixth grade.

M: If you didn't play the violin, what would you do to occupy your time?
T: I don't think there is anything I'd rather do. Playing the violin is part of who I am.

"Playing the violin is part of who I am."
SUSANTSAI



Eco-Friendly, Eco-Aware

Bri Bardonner (11) started her own organization "EnEvo," short for Environment Evolved, in the hopes of raising environmental awareness in the community.

BY TESS ANGLIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the world becoming more environmentally aware, it seems as if everything is "going green." From grocery stores selling tote bags to encourage costumers to reuse, to clothing stores producing organic clothing, the world has become more focused upon environmental and "green" issues. Bri Bardonner (11) has made a large step in the right direction for the community by creating an organization to increase environmental awareness.

Environment Evolved or "EnEvo" is a youth-run organization designed to involve both the young and old with environmental issues. Bardonner started EnEvo when she was 15 in the hopes of prompting the community to become more environmentally aware without watching An Inconvenient Truth or being reprimanded to recycle. The organization is entirely nonprofit and is run by youth and adults in the community. EnEvo's mission is to inform people of environmentally sound products and small alterations that make a difference.

"Many adults are now discovering different problems in the world, like excessive amounts of trash, many kinds of pollution, and limited fossil fuels. While some try to help find solutions, others sit back, and all agree that it will not be something that will affect them in their lifetime," Bardonner said. "Unfortunately, the responsibility is placed upon kids to be stepping up to solve the issues, because we are the ones that will be living in the world."

EnEvo is focusing on growing and furthering its cause this year by working on projects throughout Fort Wayne. By working on various projects Bardonner also hopes that EnEvo's name will be more known throughout the community so more people of Fort Wayne will be aware of the organization and be interested in participating.

"We'd like to create a Community Garden for Southwest Allen County and Homestead High School, so people can come together and do their gardening, show it off, have annual contests, harvest their plants, or donate it to a local food shelter," said Bardonner.

EnEvo also is working on getting schools, specifically Homestead, to be more "Eco-friendly" by placing a recycling bin in every classroom and ridding the use of Styrofoam. Ecology Club works to promote the same ideology as EnEvo and is also working on ensuring Homestead has a recycling program.

" I am excited about the possibilities of positive change we can create," said Bardonner.

EnEvo has a Facebook page that currently is about 300 members and growing. The page has further information with dates for EnEvo's work throughout the community and is an easy way to follow Bardonner's work along with EnEvo's members.

"The more people that can help the better. It is crucial that teens are aware of the status of the world they will live in," Bardonner explains. "It is our responsibility to make a difference and that's exactly what I hope for EnEvo to do- make a difference."

While EnEvo is still a new organization, it is working towards bettering the community as well as the future world that is to come. While the state of the environment in the future is still unknown, precautionary measures are key to ensure a better environment for those who will inhabit it. EnEvo is just one organization working toward a larger goal, there are various other ways to make a difference environmentally. Whether a tree is planted or a cardboard box is recycled, every little bit counts.

"Everyone has the potential in them to better the world and I truly believe through the little steps, we can," expresses Bardonner.

For more information, fan EnEvo on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=292199116824.

crazy SOLES

[a photo essay]

BY TESS ANGLIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

"I like the shoes simply because they're different from most shoes you'll see. I also like that I made them from something plain into something fun; it was an entertaining process and I liked the results too."

karen kreider (11)

bailey brigman (11)

"I like the shoes because for one they are vibrant and have bright colors but also because they are Tom's shoes I know every time I wear them that I am helping someone else wear a pair of shoes as well."

"My shoes are unique and yet they are not outrageous. They feel like me."

casey alger(11)

"These kicks are fresh because they are orange: the color of the sun. They strike fear into the heart of evil because they are so bright. And I got them because I just got a job directing planes for FWA."

stephen logomasini(11)

Avatar: Beautiful or Destructive Scenery?

BY RAFAL SWIATKOWSKI
GUEST WRITER

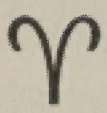
James Cameron's box-office hit "Avatar" has officially become the highest-grossing movie of all time, pulling in over 2.3 billion dollars worldwide, according to Cha-Cha. The film uses state-of-the-art CGI technology to create the beautifully realistic world of Pandora. Throughout the entire movie, the audience is treated to a virtual tour of a utopia of lush, verdant greenery that can never exist. The stunning scenery coupled with the effect of 3-D imaging created a near mind-blowing effect on some viewers. "My mind was eviscerated by [the] visual richness," says Patrick Svitek (12). For most viewers, admiration for the vivid imaging effects is where their appreciation for the movie ends, but for some the love of the movie runs a lot deeper.

A growing number of viewers have reported feeling "Avatar depression" after watching the movie. CNN found that on the Avatar forum website an entire thread was dedicated to fans posting their confused feelings of the movie and seeking help. The thread had generated over 1,000 posts in a few weeks, and a second thread was needed to allow fans to continue to have an outlet for their bewildered thoughts. Fans have been reported feeling disgusted with the human race and its reliance on technology, even contemplated suicide because they so passionately wished to live on Pandora.

The native Na'vi in the movie epitomize a symbiosis with nature that humans have long since grown away from. In the film, the natives live in tune with the world around them, enjoying a deep, tangible connection with the plants and animals. Part of the reason for Avatar depression could lie in humanity's separation from the environment. Civilization and technology have created a world in which many people do not breathe more than a parking lot walk's worth of fresh air in a week. So perhaps "Avatar depression" is really a symptom of a much deeper illness, for which the only cure may be, as Crysta Maniscalco (11) says, "to go all Thoreau and live in the woods with no electronics and no connections to the public."

MARCH HOROSCOPES

PHOTOS BY WWW.CRAZYHOROSCOPES.COM



Aries (3/21 - 4/19)

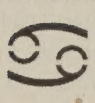
You can move more quickly -- without worrying about tripping up! Your great energy is best used to make quick decisions and to jump on opportunities before anyone else can see them.

Taurus (4/20 - 5/20)

Your impulses are pushing you to make quick decisions -- which might work out for the best. If you're out shopping, though, you might very well end up with buyer's regret, so take a friend who can say no.

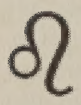
Gemini (5/21 - 6/20)

Your social energy is blazing right now! You should try hard to make sure that you're out and about as much as possible, so you can meet all the new people that are sure to filter into your life.



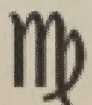
Cancer (6/21 - 7/22)

Let your inner chatterbox run wild -- it may drive you crazy, but it's good to get that out of your system while it's still fresh. That inner peace and resolve should return before you know it!



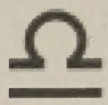
Leo (7/23 - 8/22)

You need to rally the troops -- you need everyone on board in order to get anything done! Your good social energy should keep even the fiercest rivals in lockstep for the duration.



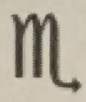
Virgo (8/23 - 9/22)

Your ability to absorb details is almost astounding, so pore over spreadsheets or whatever else passes for picky business in your life. It's a good time to impress others with your command of the facts!



Libra (9/23 - 10/22)

Open up completely -- but not to just anyone! You know who needs to hear from your innermost self, so sit them down or write a long, heartfelt email and let them know what's what.

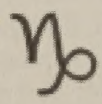


Scorpio (10/23 - 11/21)

You need to avoid the temptation to gamble with other people's money—literally and figuratively speaking. As long as you're dealing with your own resources, feel free to go nuts!

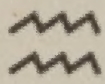
Sagittarius (11/22 - 12/21)

You need to keep busy, even though you may not be totally clear about what's going on. Your energy needs to keep pushing you forward, so as long as you don't think too hard about it all.



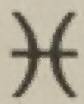
Capricorn (12/22 - 1/19)

You need to step up and help out – at least one friend or colleague is in dire need! Your ability to cut through bureaucracy or just get to the point quickly is invaluable to them.



Aquarius (1/20 - 2/18)

You need to step up and help out – at least one friend or colleague is in dire need! Your ability to cut through bureaucracy or just get to the point quickly is invaluable to them.



Pisces (2/19 - 3/20)

You are perfectly comfortable knowing that you don't know everything. This month brings a breath of fresh air to your understanding, as an old illusion dries up and blows away, leaving more truth to ponder.

The Best Bond: Daniel Craig, the most recent installment in the Bond series, could be considered the best of all times.

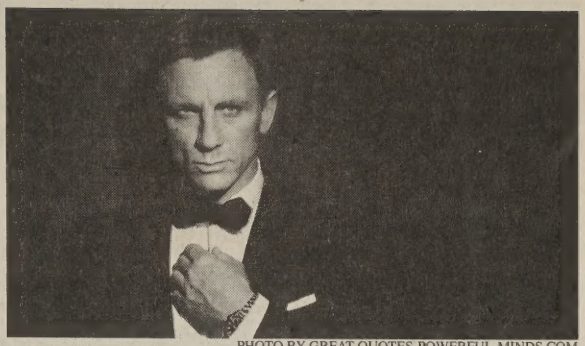


PHOTO BY GREAT-QUOTES-POWERFUL-MINDS.COM

BOND, JAMES BOND:

A reflection on the classic movie franchise

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER AND CARTOONIST

There are currently 22 Bond films, 22 times where 007 uses his famous phrase "Bond, James Bond". With a film franchise spanning over 48 years with numerous talented actors and actresses starring in the international spy drama, the question isn't if you like Bond, it's which Bond you like.

Six different actors have depicted Ian Fleming's James Bond. Such a successful film series has caused many a dissent and opinion over who depicted the legendary Bond the best. The film series itself started with Sean Connery in "Dr. No": thus, he is often seen as the original and best Bond. His charm and promiscuous tendencies have earned him respect across the board. His successor however, was nowhere near as known. Starring in "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" George Lazenby was only Bond for one film, leaving the role after some bad career advice. His performance can be considered lost in comparison to other, more well-known actors. Succeeding him was London-Born Roger Moore, who opened his act with the 1973 film "Live and Let Die" which firmly out grossed Connery's last film as Bond in "Diamonds Are Forever". With seven films as Bond, Moore is one of the more noticeable contributors to the Bond image, his films largely successful, which brought in over one billion dollars to the franchise. After he retired, Timothy Dalton was cast as the next Bond. His goal was to channel Fleming's Bond, the cold, ruthless vigor who was depicted in the novels before the movies. As a result, his two films were not nearly as successful and the film Bond and the literature Bond were two completely different characters by then. After a 6-year hiatus, Pierce Brosnan brought Bond into the 21st Century with "Goldeneye". He is seen as another icon of Bond due to his image being the first of any Bond to be put into a video game. Along with this, the modern film industry just began to pick up around that time, putting Brosnan's exposure to full capacity. With his only film "failures" being "Tomorrow Never Dies", which was unfortunately released the same day as "Titanic", and "Die Another Day" which met criticism at the film's flabby plot and choice in cast. After Pierce's contract ended, Daniel Craig was cast at the sixth Bond. Powerful, ruthless, and clever, Craig brought the action of the franchise to a new level. His films re-vamped the series and broke up the common stream of events Bond films were known for. He did all of this with the same care and ease as the "Quantum of Solace" opening car scene. When the question comes as to who was the best Bond, it's a difficult choice. There are three general options, Sean Connery for his portrayal of Bond which sprouted the entire series, Pierce Brosnan for bringing Bond to the 21st century as well as its inception into video games, and finally, Daniel Craig for his revamping of the character of Bond, adding a gritty, emotional and dangerous side to the enigma of Bond. To make it fair, there are some faults in each of the actors, Connery's portrayals are predictable, and to today's audience, long and trivial. His ability to remain cool under pressure is lost within his repeated demonstrating of it. As for Brosnan, his performances are weak, not in an acting sense, but rather in the fact that in most of his films he's beaten to a pulp before suddenly remembering he's a secret agent. Craig has torn up the genre, subjecting a lot of loyal fans to a new wave of Bond, a general loss of swagger. With this in consideration, the best Bond character is undoubtedly Craig. He has brought a new, smarter action to the franchise, with films requiring not only one's eyes, but brain as well. The stories delicate enough to require reruns, yet enough action to keep you interested. His actions are motivated not only with duty to Queen and Country, but to his own emotions as well; Daniel Craig brought Bond to us as a living, breathing human being.

PHOTO BY ALARMPRESS.COM

GOGOL BORDELLO

Gypsy Punks Underdog World Strike

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER AND CARTOONIST

Gogol Bordello could be the most amazing band that probably isn't in most iTunes libraries, though they should be. Pronounced very much like it sounds (Go-guhl Bor-del-oh), the gypsy punk band calls New York its home. Starting off in 1999 and hitting their prime by signing with SideOneDummy Records in 2005, Gogol Bordello toured all over the world and became a nationally-known band within their two years of being signed, a time period in which most bands are just getting started and are slowly getting recognized.

Their success lies in the group's original sound: a blend of dub, a sub genre of reggae, and punk, accompanied by accordions and violins. This unique sound has landed them several live shows on late night television, among other opportunities to play with numerous other big name bands on tour. Such largely popular concerts attended include Coachella and Lollapalooza, where Gogol Bordello has proven itself as must-see live band. This is because Gogol Bordello is not anywhere near a typical band. Namely, they have a violinist, an accordion player, two dancers who simultaneously play the drums. Another distinctive trait of the band is that during certain songs, front man Eugene Hutz has been known to place a fire bucket onto his mike and sing a solo off of it.

The band's energetic performances can best be contributed to their gypsy-punk roots, which is where the band's name originates. Gogol comes from the name Nikolai Gogol, who was a hugely influential writer in Eastern European literature, and was also known for his introduction of Ukrainian culture into Russia. The band takes this origin to heart, their goal being to educate audiences and celebrate gypsy inspired culture via their music. As for Bordello, translates to 'brothel' in Italian.

There have been numerous documentaries and movies based around Eugene Hutz and his band, each member coming from a different country. The majority of their songs are based off of Eugene's experiences traveling all over Eastern Europe on the way to America, living like a refugee and growing up with his father, who was one of Ukraine's first rock stars.

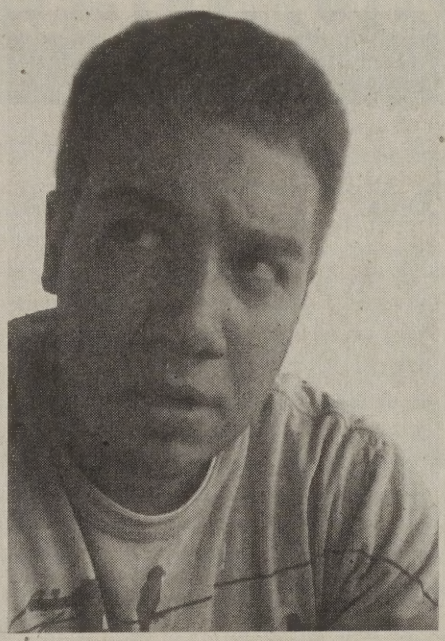
Overall, the band has a very party-like atmosphere to them: they were kicked out from their first show for being too over the top. And while not being the first band most would allow their parents to listen to, it's definitely one to dance in one's room. Gogol Bordello is currently touring all over the world and is expected to come to the United States in late April. Gogol Bordello currently has 4 LP's out.

NOTES FROM NOAH...

→ Though winter seems to never end, enjoy the starry nights

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

The world glistens in a white sheet of sparkling snow. Everything brightens up, but just for a short time. There is a sense of joy and wonder, but could that be false? The sky turns grey, and the once powdery comforter that covered the streets turns into a dark mess of slosh. Everything now turns bitter and cold. This is winter. The rain plays games with our minds, as if it will melt away the snow and life will warm up. We are in full swing of what is known as the most depressing time of the year, yet things seem to look up.



I cannot say I have any love towards the uninvited guest that is winter. I have already gone through one car-totaling accident—air bags included—and expressed my fair share of grumblings about the sub-zero weather via under-the-breath obscenities. It gets old, to say the least. I will be relieved when I don't have to wear a wool coat and my teeth will no longer chatter. I'm a coat person, but only for so long.

We need to do something to make this winter more positive. The advice I will give, the advice that I give everyone, is to wing it. When I say wing it, I mean to take the chances you've been contemplating and simply go with the wind. Have no regrets with what you do—you may be surprised how things work out. Do not fear anything and tell yourself that you have nothing to lose. At least this way, you will never regret not doing something.

Recently, I went sledding with a few friends. We had quite high hopes for this little trip down memory lane. Now, I understand that I am eighteen years old and this may not be the most mature thing in the world, but anything for some fun, right? It was nostalgic, but I must say it was much more exhilarating when I was less than three feet tall. Maybe we just need to find a bigger hill next time. It is memories like that of going sledding that we must hold on to and cherish. The simple things in life make all the difference. Do not do the ordinary. Rather, do the extraordinary, and see where it takes you. Winter won't last forever, but for the remainder of its stay, we must make the best of things.

Family is a bond stronger than any other. I hear all of this talk about people excited about going off to college because they will get away for once. Why is there a rush to get away? I like the idea of staying. My situation may be a little different because I have a five-year-old brother who I want to see grow up, but family is family. I don't plan on living at home forever, but I think it would be nice to have a couple more years in the home I spent most of my childhood and with the people who raised me. For those of you leaving, spend a little extra time with good old mom and dad every now and then. They would appreciate it, and, in the long run, so will you. Every Thursday night, I take the trash out. During the winter, I refrain from wearing a coat. I walk the trash to the end of my driveway, and on most nights, the stars are out. I take deep breaths of the brisk and refreshing air while I look up at what lies beyond what we know. It is on these nights that I think the clearest and then rest with ease. There is something about the beauty of all the stars scattered across the sky that just makes me smile. I always pick out the Big and Little Dippers because they are the only two constellations that I know. Somehow, I find accomplishment in that. When my weekly trash duties are done, I hope for a clear sky when the next Thursday rolls around.

My life is much like my trash schedule. Each week I have to do the same repetitive tasks, yet I find beauty and happiness in the simplest things around me. I take advantage of the nights when my life isn't cloudy and try to find the Big and Small Dippers as quickly as possible because then my work has paid off and I can rest easy until the next time. When the stars in life aren't out, it's quite disappointing, but rest assured, the garbage men will be back in a week and the trash will have to be taken out. Sooner or later, we'll all get to see the stars again.

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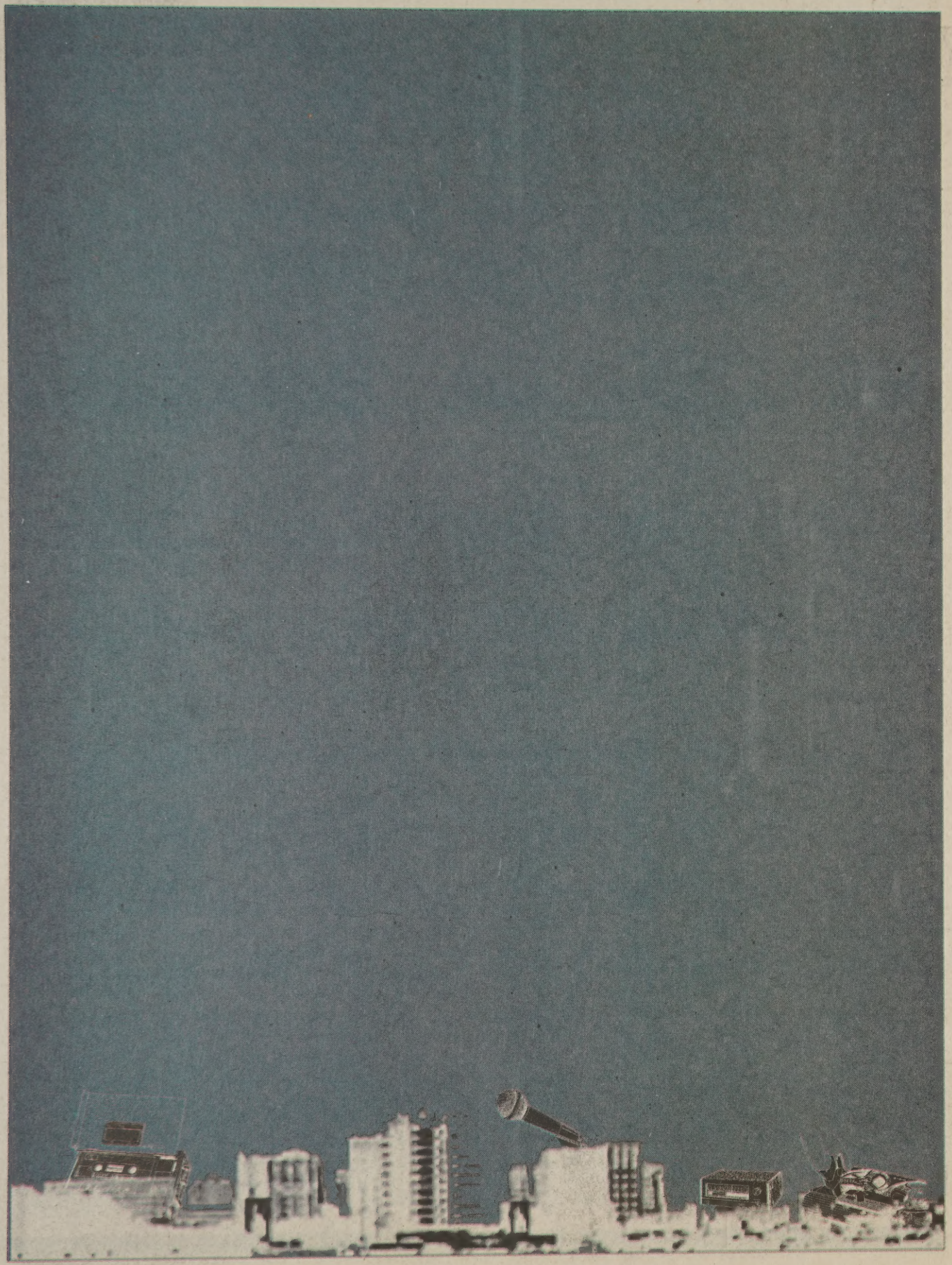

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Both show choirs wrap their respective seasons on an optimistic note despite disappointing finishes during recent shows. 2A

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ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net

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PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER | PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL | PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Grassroots campaign for science elective unravels

Facebook fan group spawns supporters for curriculum addition of Advanced Ecology

By Amanda Arnold
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

After student efforts and expressions of opinion, Advanced Ecology is in the process of becoming a class for the 2010-2011 year. However, because it is a student-driven initiative that is still in its planning stages, it is not guaranteed to become an official course for next year.

Although Advanced Ecology has been on Homestead's official course list in previous years, it has not been taught for the past two years due to lack of interest from students. However, within the past few months, students have expressed desire to see the class return.

Bill Rice (11), creator of the Facebook group "HHS - 'I want to sign up for ADVANCED ECOLOGY' Join if you are signing up!" is dedicated to making the class official. Through his group, over 20 students have been able to join together and agree to attempt to obtain the minimum number needed for the class to be accepted. Eighteen to 20 students is the estimated range of interested parties needed for the class to become a reality, but "many variables" can influence that quantity come next school year, according to Assistant Principal Steve Lake.

"My goal is to let the school administrators know there is great interest for Advanced Ecology or AP Environmental Science, and I also want to get a number of how many kids are going to sign up," Rice said. "Others I talked to wanted this class too, so instead of talking about it, I wanted to help bring it back."

20 students need to show interest in enrolling before administrators can consider Advanced Ecology, pending other financial factors.

While Rice has been open with his campaign to reinstate Advanced Ecology as a course, the ardor for ecology runs among a large group of students.

"I thought that [ecology] was really fun. We went to the environmental center and did a lot of studying with outdoor stuff, which

▶▶SEE 'ECOLOGY,' PAGE 2A

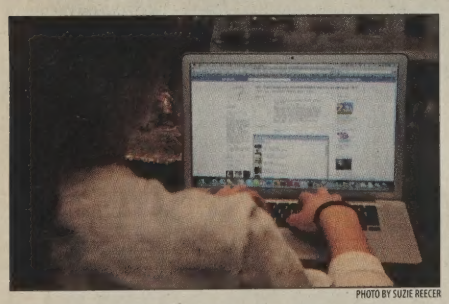


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Incoming freshman Maggie Reecer browses the Advanced Ecology class Facebook group. The online campaign hoping to bring back the once-existing science elective was created by junior Bill Rice.

Osborne-Price: Role in Norwell skirmish 'portrayed terribly'

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

High school basketball is one of the most highly emotional sports, especially in a hoops-crazed locale such as Fort Wayne, Ind. Students, staff and even parents become highly vested in the intensity of the season. However, these high-strung emotions can lead to confrontations, which can be either be verbal or physical or a combination of both. As much of the student body knows, there was a confrontation at the end of the Homestead and Norwell basketball game.

It was senior night, and the game was the last home game for senior team members. With three seconds left and a commanding lead, Norwell had the ball and Homestead's defense gave up. Norwell's Brandon Gerber (12), however, exercised questionable etiquette and dunked the ball.

"We quit playing defense in the end, and usually you just hold the ball to secure the win," Dustin Durnell (12) said. "And plus, he dunked it, which made it worse."

Jay Curry (12), frustrated with the defeat and shocked at what he viewed as unsportsmanlike conduct, shoved Gerber into Homestead's student section, where Conor Osborne-Price (12) pushed him back.

"[I was thinking about] how disrespectful it was at the time," Osborne-Price said. "I shouldn't have put my hands on him, though."

Gerber declined to comment for this article and did not answer calls placed by the Spartana staff.

Clips all over the news replayed the brief altercation through the weekend, keeping the athletic department busy fielding calls and answering questions. However, Joe Updegrove, the athletic director, thinks that most other athletic programs respected how quickly the situation was kept at bay.

"The reactions of not only our administration and our security, but Norwell's administration... reacted at the right time and appropriately," Updegrove said. "However, those that I've talked to, at other schools, understand that [altercations] can happen at any given time. You're talking high-intensity game with two rivals. From talking to other athletic directors from other schools – they thought it was handled well and that it could have been a lot worse."

Osborne-Price, however, claims that he was expelled from school and believes that the administration felt that his behavior at the game was unacceptable.

"[I was expelled for] disruptive conduct," Price said. "I'm not technically expelled, but I'm not allowed on HHS ground, and I can't go to any HHS events or graduation. But, I am finishing my work at Impact [Alterative High School]."

Osborne-Price also believes that his expulsion was unfair, but it is unlikely that the administration will reverse their decision.

"I pushed a kid. I didn't throw a punch or any thing like that," Osborne-Price said. "I think the media had a big role in it, and portrayed it terribly."

▶▶SEE 'COURT,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Administration tightens Web rules as filter-dodging apps spread

iPod products banned as teachers combat loopholes in Internet content blocking

BAD APPS CLICKS

The following are the top-selling iPod Touch applications of 2009 (an asterisk denotes required Internet access):

- MobileNavigator*
- MLB.com At Bat*
- Textfree Unlimited*
- Tom Tom*
- Golfshot: Golf GPS*
- SlingPlayer Media*
- ColorSplash

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

A change in the enforcement of the school's electronics policy will mean that students can forget about using their iPod Touches and iPhones at school.

"iPhones and iPod Touches are no longer allowed, and all mp3 players have to be out on the table where they can be seen," Connie Meredith, study hall supervisor, said.

This new regulation represents a change in the way the rules regarding iPods are enforced. Until this point, students had been using iPod Touches in class. The change in policy has left students confused and angry.

"I don't really understand why they're changing the rules," Ian York (10) said.

York had his iPod Touch confiscated after he used it in study hall this week. Earlier in the year, he used the device without any problem.

"It's not fair to say that we can't use our iPods when none of the teachers have had any complaints about them," York said.

While the recent regulations involving iPods certainly seem like a rule change, members of the technology department say otherwise.

"Teachers may not have been enforcing it earlier, but it is not a new policy," Susan Shreffler, computer specialist, said.

Shreffler pointed out page 18 of the student handbook, which says that "electronic devices are not allowed during school hours in situations not related to a school purpose."

The new enforcement of

▶▶SEE 'IPOD APPS,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Tyler Eichsteadt (11) works on his homework while listening to his iPod during sixth period study hall.

Varsity dance team slips while JV surprises

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Hoping to defend a national jazz title, the varsity dance team competed in the National Dance Alliance's National Championships at the Hard Rock Live at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida last weekend. Though they placed as first runner-up in both large group pom and jazz, the junior varsity (JV) team took

▶▶SEE 'DANCE TRIP,' PAGE 2A

COURTESY PHOTO

DECA STATE COMPETITION

Six business students bound for DECA nationals

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Six of Homestead's best business students will have the opportunity to prove their business skills at DECA's international conference as a result of their success at the DECA state competition.

DECA is a group of high school and college business students that aims to "support the development of marketing and management skills," according to its official website.

Ashley Meruani (12), Jessica Nguyen (12), Joanna Nguyen (11) and Sameerah Alkhairy (12) each placed within the top three in their respective events at the state level on Feb. 28, earning each of them a spot at the international competition. Stephanie Operschall (12) and Catherine Needler (12) placed fourth in their events, earning spots at the competition as alternates.

"The dance is always everyone's favorite part of the weekend. It can get pretty crazy in there."

ASHLEY MERUANI (12)
DECA National Qualifier

"DECA is essentially a business competition," Meruani said. Meruani competed in the Internet Marketing Plan Event with her teammate Jessica Nguyen. Meruani and Nguyen took first place in the event.

"There are competitive events and written events, and in both, you can work alone or in groups," Meruani said.

Nguyen and Alkhairy competed in the Buying and Merchandising Team

NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

- Sameerah Alkhairy (12)
- Ashley Meruani (12)
- Jessica Nguyen (12)
- Joanna Nguyen (11)
- Catherine Needler (12) (Alternate)
- Stephanie Operschall (12)* (Alternate)

▶▶SEE 'DECA,' PAGE 2A

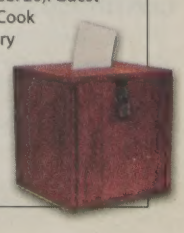
BRIEFS

SPRING COLLEGE FAIR
The annual spring college fair will bring more than 80 national and regional universities to the cafeteria on March 18 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Representatives from the Armed Services will also be present. Admission is free and all attendees are invited to enter a drawing for scholarships available to one senior and one junior.

VOTER REGISTRATION
Students who will be 18 years or older as of Nov. 2 are eligible to vote in the upcoming primary election. To obtain the proper forms, interested teens should visit their social studies teacher by the end of the day today.

FALL HIGHER ED
An informational meeting will be held in room 316 during lunch March 18 for future IPFW dual-enrollment students. The university's high school contact, Ann Brown, will be available to answer questions and distribute registration forms for the upcoming fall semester.

CORRECTION
A writer was incorrectly credited in the Sports section of Issue 10 (Feb. 26). Guest writer Jacob Cook wrote the story titled, "Just Short of Expected." The Spartana regrets this error.



▸▸DANCE TRIP CONTINUED FROM 1A

the national championship in the JV pom division and came in as runners-up for JV jazz.

The two teams of 19 girls each flew to Orlando on Thursday after school, ready to take on the challenge of the national competition.

On Saturday, both teams performed both pom and jazz in the preliminary round. Twelve teams competed in varsity pom and six teams competed in jazz. Homestead's varsity team placed fourth and second, respectively. Both dances advanced to finals on Sunday, where they held their second-place finish in jazz and moved up in placement to become first runner-up in pom. Though they didn't hold their national jazz title, the team feels happy about their performance.

"The girls had great performances the entire weekend," varsity dance coach Leah Stupeck said. "They did the best that they could, had a great showing in finals, and were up against some really tough competition from around the country that we had not seen before."

The varsity dance team lost their champion title to California's Esperanza High School, coached by Cheetah Girl and Dancing with the Stars contestant Sabrina Bryan.

Although varsity lost their title, the 19 members of the JV dance team shocked themselves by winning a title of their own. Though they placed first in jazz and second in pom at prelims, their placements flipped in finals, and they emerged with the large group JV pom national championship title.

COURTESY PHOTO

The junior varsity dance team celebrates onstage in Orlando, Fla., after capturing the national championship in the pom division.

"We didn't have the mindset as much in jazz because we won prelims, but we had to work for pom, which made our performance amazing," JV member Sam Conner (11) said. "My favorite part was winning. It was like the best experience of my whole life because we didn't expect to win going down."

For the 19 varsity girls who didn't win a title, the trip was not a loss but an opportunity to see other great dancers and appreciate what the art has to offer.

"I think my favorite part of the trip was probably that when we got second, the team that beat us came up and hugged us, and it was like intense sportsmanship and it made me even happier," Rachel Rifkin (12) said.

A day at Universal Studios, laying out, swimming in the pool, eating together and enjoying the rest of the team all contributed to what all team members describe as one of the most fun weekends they have ever enjoyed.

"My favorite part of nationals was definitely the team aspect of it all," Jenna Banas (12) said.

With such a close team comes the inevitable memories that will last from the time the girls spent together at nationals.

"I'll remember the Popeye ride [at Universal Studios] because it a water ride and it was freezing out and we all got soaked and it was hilarious," Rifkin said.

The team returned to Fort Wayne on Monday night. This past week, they have been busy practicing for the Indiana High School Dance Team Association's state finals, which will take place tomorrow at Lawrence North High School outside of Indianapolis.

"I feel like we did really well at nationals and improved a lot just within the two days," Clarissa Root (12) said. "I'm so excited for state, but then dance is over, and that's sad."

▸▸ECOLOGY CONTINUED FROM 1A

is something I'm interested in," Bradley Adamson (11) said. "My counselor said as long as we have enough people, we'll be able to sign up for it."

Advanced Ecology would be offered as a science class for students that took ecology and are interested in delving deeper into the material learned in ecology. About thirty interested students will be needed for the class to be added.

Few facts are set in place, and although speculation circulates that Emily Palmer, ecology and chemistry teacher, would teach the course, everything is in the developing stages and nothing is guaranteed.

"The counselors haven't talked to me about it yet, so I'm not guaranteed to teach it," Palmer said. "I imagine we would be going deeper in the material we learned, and we would get to do more specialized projects."

The creation of the new class would also require a new set of curriculum which would have to be approved by the school board before the class could be-

> "I love having students for more than one year, so I think it would be awesome to have them again. I feel like you can do so much more in a class when you've already met everyone, and that's exciting to me."
>
> **EMILY PALMER**
> *Ecology and Chemistry Teacher*

gin. In addition, Palmer would have to make a choice between continuing to teach chemistry or only teaching ecology and advanced ecology.

"I really like teaching chemistry, and I think that I wouldn't be able to teach it if I were to teach Advanced Ecology. However, if I weigh all the pros and the cons, I want to teach [Advanced Ecology] more than I don't want to," Palmer said. "I love having students for more than a year, so I think it would be awesome to have them again. I feel like you can do so much more in a class when you've already met everyone, and that's exciting to me."

Just Because Week to wrap with pep rally, MORP

Brenneke: Week of offbeat activities vital to 'healthy atmosphere' in school

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Homestead's annual MORP dance will take place tonight, March 12, at the Memorial Coliseum from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. This year, the theme is "A Dance of the Decade" and is based on a rave style with neon decorations. Various events were held this past week to pump up students and energize them. Why? Just because.

Just Because Week (JBW) started on Monday, and following the tradition, each day of the week had its own theme. To kick off the week, students dressed up as their favorite animal on Monday for Zoo Day. The following day was Snuggie/PJ day, and Wednesday was Camo Day. On Thursday, students showed their ethnicities by dressing in clothes of various cultures. To end the week, students wore their MORP shirts to school today, as is tradition. Prizes were awarded each day for the best and most outrageously dressed during lunch. MORP shirts were on sale for $10 all week during lunch, and the student government held a cornhole tournament during all lunch modules throughout JBW. Toward the latter portion of the week, students' spirits all through the school rose tremendously.

"Just Because Week generates a lot of school spirit, which is important for keeping a healthy atmosphere at Homestead," Quinn Brenneke (12), Student Government president, said. "Dress-up days are just one way that people can get involved and have fun. Student Government understands that days start to seem a little bit longer during March and JBW is what we do to help break that up."

One of the events held this week was Dirty Duckers, the girls' dodgeball tournament on Wednesday. Each team created different themes, including a theme based on the movie "Transformers" and a different robot name for each team member. The game began at 6:30 p.m., and spectators were admitted for $3 or for free if they brought two canned or boxed goods for donation to the Community Harvest Food Bank.

In addition to the Dirty Duckers tournament, the Variety Show was held on Thursday at 7 p.m. Tickets were available for $5 at the door and also during the lunch modules of the preceding days. The show contained a total of 18 acts, including a juggler, comedian, singers, bands, dancers, pianists and more. The turnout at the Variety Show was great and included both parents and students.

Today, there will be a pep session to end JBW. The pep session will include several surprises as well as a performance by the varsity dance team, interactive spirit cheers and games involving some of the school's best teachers.

"I look forward to having a great time with my friends and seeing this project that the MORP committee and I have worked on for so long in action," Jack Hagedorn (9), member of the student government MORP committee, said.

The dance tonight begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Coliseum, and parking is $4 per car. MORP is being held at the Coliseum because Hilgers, where the dance traditionally took place, went out of business this year. Administrators wanted to find a lowkey room that would fit the informality of MORP but at the same time accommodate the attendees, so they chose a room at the Coliseum to host the dance this year. Students must wear their MORP shirts or buy a ticket at the entrance. In addition, students will not be permitted to the dance if their school ID is not present. Due to a new rule, MORP is a closed dance this year, meaning no students outside of Homestead are allowed to attend.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The new television in the athletic hallway was just another waste of spending.

Status: False. According to Athletic Director Joe Updegrove, it is not a television, but a monitor. The monitor is going to be used to display pictures of conference champions that were previously printed and hung on the wall. Because wall space is becoming increasingly limited, the pictures of all future athletes that would be hung on the wall are going to be displayed on this monitor.

The monitor was donated to the athletic department by their sponsor, Fort Wayne Orthopedics. In addition to being donated, Updegrove estimates that he will save $600 a year on Plexiglas that he would have had to but to hang the increasing number of pictures on the wall.

"A lot of schools like Columbia City and DeKalb are going in that [digital] direction [for hanging pictures]," Updegrove said. "I'd personally like to see the bar be higher to be on the wall so it's more of an honor, but this is what is going to happen."

All pictures that are currently on the wall will remain in place. Though it might be a disadvantage to not be able for some to go and find their pictures, the limited wall space makes the monitor the obvious and most economic solution. – *Carrie Cummiskey*

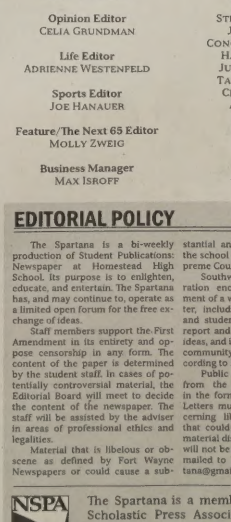


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Students observe the new monitor in the athletic hallway while entering school Monday morning. Despite rumors that the television set was the result of the administration's wasteful spending, the electronic product was donated by the athletic department's chief sponsor, Fort Wayne Orthopedics. In addition, the monitor was obtained in hopes of now displaying school athletes via digital slideshow.

▸▸COURT CONTINUED FROM 1A

This altercation, lasting no less than 10 seconds, received more media attention than any other daily activity. Updegrove agrees with Price that the media over-analyzed the small conflict.

"For people in our community and other communities looking at us, [the conflict] did affect us," Updegrove said. "The negative stuff gets a lot more attention than the positive stuff. That's what society feeds on – the negative."

Despite the incident, the team finished with a strong 17-5 record for their season.

Show choirs rely on volunteers for final performance

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The annual Homestead Classic Showcase will take place tomorrow, March 13. The showcase is the last official performance of the 2010 competition season for both the Class Royale and Elite show choirs.

The showcase will feature performances of 20 show choirs from 15 high schools and five middle schools. Competition divisions include large mixed, small mixed, women's, middle school and solo competitions. The all-day event is open to the public from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. and is hosted by Class Royale and Elite show choirs, parent volunteers and student volunteers.

The showcase is one of the biggest fundraising events for both Homestead show choirs, generating an average of about $16,000 in profit. Plans begin about a year in advance. Volunteers contribute over 20 hours on the day of the event.

"We started two weeks after last year's competition to meet and discuss what we did right and what we did wrong," Shannon Mantica, the showcase's volunteer coordinator, said. "We then meet again once a month during the summer and once a week during the school year to discuss changes and plan for the next competition."

There will be over 300 volunteers at the event, the majority of which are parent volunteers. Every show choir parent is required to volunteer that day, and Anonymous Blue parents contribute time as well. Other volunteers come from Key Club and National Honors Society.

"We need the volunteers. [The show choirs] would be working at the showcase forever if they weren't here to help us," Erik Bailey (10) said.

Volunteers have a variety of jobs that are divided into categories such as performance, facilities, food service, customer service and administration. Each category is assigned about 75 volunteers.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Morgan Zirzow (12) performs a solo during the Carroll Classic show choir showcase March 6.

▸▸DECA CONTINUED FROM 1A

Event and took second place.

"Anderson Franklin, Stephanie Operschall, and Lindsay Crawford all got fourth places in their events, but only the top three in each event are guaranteed to make it to nationals," Meruani said.

To prepare for the state competition, the students worked both in class and at home.

"I prepared by reading pamphlets I received from Mr. McNeal, and I also spoke to operators of hotels to get itineraries to study from," Brett Gauger (11), who competed in the Hotel and Lodging Management Event, said.

For the events, students created presentations and wrote papers about their subjects. The students who are advancing to the next level of competition will need to adjust their work to make it even stronger.

"We wrote a 21-page paper, prepared a ten minute presentation, and created visuals. For nationals, we want to change our paper according to the judges' comments and add more details," Meruani said.

Even though the focus of the trip was the business competition, students still were able to find time for recreation.

"The DECA dance is always everyone's favorite part of the weekend. It can get pretty crazy in there," Meruani said.

DECA is a co-curricular event, meaning that Homestead offers classes specifically geared toward preparing for the DECA competitions.

"During every class period, we prepared for DECA, and in addition to this I held three major study sessions after school," Brian McNeal, the business teacher in charge of DECA, said.

Other Homestead business teachers as well as McNeal are involved in the DECA program.

"Arland Reinhard and Karen Hirschey were two other teachers who helped students prepare for the competition," McNeal said.

Now that the state competition is over, the next level of competition is the International Career Development Conference which will take on April 24, according to DECA's website. The conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I'm really looking forward to the international competition," McNeal said.

Three of the six finalists that will compete this year at the international contest, according to McNeal.

"I think we have a good chance to have some international finalists," McNeal said.

The number of state finalists is comparable to other years, but this year has not been the strongest year for the DECA program specifically at Homestead, according to McNeal.

"We had a good year, but not a great year. Seventeen students made the stage at state, which is the top six from each event," McNeal said.

McNeal, however, still was pleased with the students' accomplishments at the state level.

"Overall, it was another strong year for DECA," McNeal said.

▸▸IPOD APPS CONTINUED FROM 1A

the policy came after an e-mail to the staff from principal Rick Smith and technology director Don Chase.

"Students have apps to access MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, and Playboy," Chase said in the e-mail.

Chase said that the change in level of enforcement was recommended after parent phone call alerted the technology department to students' use of iPod Touches in class.

"There were no complaints from teachers, and we wouldn't have known about the potential problem if it weren't for the call from a parent," Chase said.

After the call, Chase and other members of the department researched iPod Touches and iPhones and found that the devices could potentially bypass the school's internet filter.

"We have contacted our internet filter provider and they don't have the technology to prevent access at this time," Chase said.

According to the e-mail, the administrators came to the conclusion that the only solution was to ban the use of iPod touches and iPhones.

"The only way we can stop inappropriate access to these websites at this time is to eliminate students' use of these devices in the school," Smith said.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4100.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

NSPA The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO WWW.BONNINT.COM

Pentagon officials advanced a potential repeal of a ban of women onboard U.S. submarines to Congress in late February, sparking refreshed debates about the female role in the military. Both legislative houses have been allowed 30 days to contemplate the proposal. While lifting the decades-long blocking of women serving on submarines is a notable gesture, Life editor Adrienne Westenfeld believes females are still silently divided in the military.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

HISTORY BEHIND THE HISTORY

- ▶ **1978:** The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County, Calif., Commission on the Status of Women hosts a Women's History Week gathering.
- ▶ **1981:** Two legislators cosponsor the first resolution proposing the memorial week.
- ▶ **1987:** The National Women's History Project appeal to Congress to expand the week into a month.

PHOTO WWW.WOMENSHISTORYMONTH.GOV | SOURCE WWW.WOMENSHISTORYMONTH.GOV

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Current bill condemning domestic abuse 'benefits everybody'

BY CELIA GRUNDMAN
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

Sen. John Kerry and Representative Bill Delahunt are out to destroy families and incarcerate innocent civilians. Their anti-male cabal seeks Male Entrapment in the sinister guise of Women Empowerment. In fact, they are probably snickering about their insidious little plot right now, in between worshipping their shrine to Susan B. Anthony and Abigail Adams.

Yes, it is true; those nefarious evil-doers introduced the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) on February 4. As Amnesty International states, IVAWA "is an unprecedented effort by the United States to address violence against women globally." Oh, the horror, the horror!

Opponents of IVAWA, such as Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting (RADAR), are horrified that the bill "openly [works] to "change social norms" and rework legal codes." Yes, it's true. IVAWA seeks to end mores that condone and promote violence against women. Is that so bad?

Here's the truth: IVAWA does not force other countries into Westernized feminism. Instead, it funds local programs that have proven to be effective. And some more facts: IVAWA opponents cry sexism, believing women are as violent as men. In the real world, however, some countries have rates of domestic violence against women reaching nearly 70 percent. Contrary to RADAR and others' ludicrous notions, domestic violence is not a private matter, and combating it is not an attempt to break apart stable homes.

According to Amnesty International, the following are among IVAWA's plans regarding violence against women: increase legal and judicial protection, increase health sector capacity, change unhealthy social norms, and increase women's economic opportunity and education. Yes, yes, all very good. But what if I'm a chauvinistic and/or apathetic male? How would IVAWA benefit me?

IVAWA benefits everybody, regardless of gender. Poverty is largely incurred due to violence against women; when women are free and protected, they educate themselves, they make a living, and the economy blossoms. A Nicaraguan study discovered that children of abused females left school, on average, four years earlier than other kids. With reduced abuse, however, poverty levels go down as the woman's status improves. It's simple economics.

Such violence against women is also associated with high maternal mortality rates and high rates of HIV/AIDS – rates that ebb along with rates of violence. This violence is not exclusive to the family household – it is far more pervasive than that. From the systematic rape used in war and genocide to acid attacks, sexual slavery and honor killings, abuse affects lives throughout the world. IVAWA offers the first organized, international solution to these horrors.

Contrary to the notions of conspiracy theorists that quake at the thought of radical social agendas, IVAWA has no ulterior motives. Its goal is the welfare of all, and needs your support.

Student drivers wait their turn while trickling out of the junior parking lot one-by-one Tuesday afternoon after Homestead's usual 2:35 p.m. dismissal.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Commuter considerations

Untimely wakers must not sacrifice driving focus in last-minute race to school

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It is 7:38 a.m. on a Tuesday morning, the 23rd of February. Noble County Sheriff's deputies drive along the winding stretch of road that is U.S. 33 to a car wreck. The tragic scene continues to unfold when, fifteen minutes later, another call comes, another death.

Amanda Musser was a mere half mile away from West Noble high when, possibly distracted by food, she lost control, her vehicle shattering into a pole and then rolling. She was not wearing a seat belt. She died instantly.

The second call – fifteen minutes later – brought news of Brandon Replogle. He was about three miles from West Noble high when his pickup slid on an icy bridge, colliding with an oncoming Ford truck. The other driver was uninjured, thankfully; Replogle was not so fortunate.

One morning, several minutes – and two promising West Noble seniors die. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens," 16- to 19-year-olds being the most at risk. Why? Because we are inexperienced, and we are often foolish.

Only one in five Americans regularly buckles up, teens especially (according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Muller was not alone – but had she been strapped in, her survival odds would have skyrocketed.

Sheriff Gary Leatherman put Muller's crash down to "driver inattention." We all fall prey to driving distractions – texting, making calls, eating, conversing with friends. As adolescents, we believe we are invulnerable, that the tragic accident will never happen to us. For the most part, this is true – but be prepared, be attentive, be careful. A fleeting moment of distraction can be fatal and present far-reaching effects.

Replogle died on a bridge notorious for iciness and profuse crashes. Some accidents cannot be avoided, but drive slowly. Drive carefully.

Musser and Replogle had glowing futures. Their deaths are a tragedy. We advise Homestead students to take as many precautions as possible to keep their own futures bright.

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *The near-concurrent car accidents involving two West Noble students remind teens once again to stay attentive on the road.*

Equal education still an obstacle for those afflicted with poverty

Convenience, accessibility essential to women's schooling opportunities

BY KIRSTEN OVERDAHL
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

From an early age, American women have the opportunity to lead an educated life with essential rights guaranteed to them and equal rights movements paving the way before them. In other countries, though, women are not as lucky. According to Jonathan Alter of Newsweek magazine, 73 million children worldwide do not attend primary school, and three times as many do not attend secondary school. 60 percent of all children who do not attend school are girls.

Females in other parts of the world experience difficulties that are alien to American women. They must often travel long distances on foot to reach educational facilities, and their families scrape together all possible resources to pay for sub-par education while inevitably favoring the oldest male child as they choose which children they will send to become educated and which children must remain uneducated. The burden lies on the oldest boy to support the family, while the girls are left uneducated and at higher risk for abuse, HIV/AIDS and unhealthy marriages and children.

▶▶60
percent of all children who do not attend school are girls. According to Newsweek, 73 million children worldwide do not attend primary school.

Gender-based violence further holds back the advancement of females in their education. In developing countries where education is a matter of what a family can afford to sacrifice while still managing to survive, attending school also becomes a question of whether to tolerate sexual harassment and assaults versus whether to receive an education.

Meanwhile, in the western world, opportunities are so far beyond those of developing and third-world countries that the rate of educated females actually surpasses the rate of educated males in many places. Both females and males suffer from a different challenge – overcoming the stereotype of the academic talents of each gender. Students have no frame of reference for what it means to live in perilous circumstances for the sake of a glimpse of escape from a desolate life, and children move through school unaware that the tortuous education about which they complain is the same golden ticket for which their peers across the world are sacrificing basic survival needs and, in some cases, survival itself.

> "The struggle for female education is not one to fight incompetence but to campaign for availability and accessibility. It is not an easily won battle, but it is worth fighting."
>
> **KIRSTEN OVERDAHL**
> *Copy Editor*

Alter's statistics look grim, but they also report that females are more likely to share their job earnings in order to support their family. Educated females are also three times as unlikely as uneducated females to contract HIV/AIDS, and girls who have been to school will have fewer and healthier children. When the powers of wise decision-making and of opportunity for betterment are placed in the hands of females, those powers are utilized.

The struggle for female education is not one to fight incompetence but to campaign for availability and accessibility. It is not an easily won battle, but it is worth fighting. To help educate females benefits not only themselves and their own opportunities but the ability of their nations to self-subsist. Stronger nations, too, will benefit from increased education opportunities for females. Because many developing countries rely on the aid of stronger nations, foreign policy of nations such as America has become shaped in part by the undeniable needs of other nations. Strong nations become "policemen" of the world as they shoulder responsibility for providing safety, survival needs and stability for less able countries. When education is supported and campaigned for, though, countries have new hope of easing themselves from full reliance upon stronger nations, and these strong nations in turn have new opportunities to focus on domestic strength.

Integrated military more than just assurance of civil rights

Decision to allow females to serve on submarines highlights remaining divisions

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

For centuries, women have diligently campaigned for the inalienable rights and social progressivism of which they are unrighteously deprived. While considerable strides have been made, women have yet to break the glass ceiling, primarily within the male-dominated field of the military.

Female soldiers have recently become permitted to serve on submarines, but are discriminatively barred from divisions such as the Navy SEALS, Infantry, and Special Forces. According to the Center for Defense Information, over 40,000 women have served in Iraq since the time of the initial deployment in 2001, and 20 percent of the American military is presently comprised of women. Numerous informed observers state that, if not for the substantial percentage of actively enlisted females, the military would suffer a considerable deficiency in its labor pool. With that valuable information in mind, any reason for prohibiting women from the front lines seems inconceivable, but by reinforcing gender stereotypes, critics seek a time in which women were second-class citizens.

Melody Kamp has observed that male soldiers are often reluctant to be accompanied by women on missions for fear of jeopardizing the mission by prioritizing the woman's safety. Why should women be barred from the front lines because their male peers can't keep their priorities straight? Women are not damsels in distress – they need only the same amount of saving that men do.

Some also speculate as to whether women would be able to meet the physical requirements expected of men, but they fail to recall that military operations require more than brute force. For the ones that do, women can and will rise to the occasion, and when they have the opportunity to fight prominently, they will train for it.

Some even go so far as to suggest that women will seduce male soldiers, and others intimate that women belong at home. Women are not simply temptresses or domestic divas – female soldiers are professionals, and they deserve to be treated with the same professionalism as men.

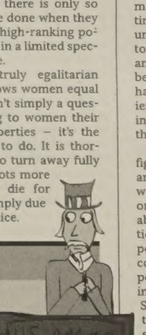
The disagreement regarding women in the military is wholly unsubstantiated, as the quandary lies not within the women who merely are fully capable of serving their country, but within the chauvinistic men who actively repress them. Humans seem to insist upon war, and with such a limited amount of people willing to enlist, how is it at all logical to turn applicants away? All the help that can be solicited is necessary, and the military should welcome all with open arms regardless of gender.

What's more, those who oppose female enlistment often conveniently overlook female militaristic accomplishments. For example, in 2006, a female member of the Coast Guard called to attention the innumerable and often unreported rapes occurring in the military, formulating the Military Rape Crisis Center, which actively campaigns for stricter laws regarding protection against sexual assault. Women can improve the military, but there is only so much that can be done when they are barred from high-ranking positions, resulting in a limited spectrum of influence.

Creating a truly egalitarian military that allows women equal opportunities isn't simply a question of restoring to women their long-overdue liberties – it's the beneficial thing to do. It is thoroughly asinine to turn away fully competent patriots more than willing to die for their country simply due to gender prejudice.

PERISCOPE IMPERILLED

The Pentagon announced Feb. 23 that they intend to end a decade-spanning ban on females serving aboard Navy submarines. The policy repeal is still subject to Congress' deliberation, though, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates has allotted 30 days for the debate to play out.



CARTOON BY CAM KAMINSKI | SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

the facebook crawl

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "What type of spirit day would you add to next year's Just Because Week if given the opportunity?"

Tanner Crandall ▸ "I suppose I'd like to see a Crazy Hat Day or something. That'd be interesting."
Wes Ring ▸ "D-Day."
Sarah Schmidt ▸ "Upside-Down Clothes Day."
Taylor Lamphier ▸ "Naked Day. Or Tie-Dye Day."
Ryan Hosler ▸ "Favorite Hip-Hop Artist Day."
Indy Singh ▸ "Favorite Television Character Day. Or Favorite Cartoon Character Day."
Rafal Swiatkowski ▸ "Sweater Vest Day."
Molly Quinn ▸ "Gender Reversal Day."
Eric Kim ▸ "Moccasin Day.".
Brian Landrigan ▸ "Lingerie Day, with 'sarch' masks."
Arpita Bhardwaj ▸ "Sweater Vest Day."

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

While most students are loading up on the books and reviewing for college preparations, Taylor Wall (12) sets her sights to taking her passion for singing to a national level. Her goal is to one day participate on American Idol. After competing in Indiana's Got Talent, Wall is practicing through the show choir to push herself to become the best singer she can be. Wall uses choir practice to not only become a better singer, but all around performer for the stage.

Early spring fever. Awaiting summer, goodbyes, college

10 Items or Less

By Hana Svetlovics
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Spring has finally arrived, and with the temperate weather, hopes of summer are not far off. I have so many countdowns going, it is hard to keep track of them all; baseball season starts in 16 days, Spring Break in 20 and graduation is only 99 days away. This calendar-based obsession has only been worsened by my being a senior, but I have always been known to keep track of time. But now that there is so little time left, I almost wish I had spent less of my hours counting, and more of my hours participating.

With a perpetual countdown, there is almost no room for living in the moment. Rather than focusing on the activity at hand, the focus is always on what is to come. While everyone showed immense school spirit during this Just Because Week, one would be a liar in claiming Spring Break was never a thought at any point during the festivities.

This problem is only heightened for seniors who have so many opportunities in the not-so-distant future. Senior activities week, final exams and graduation are the only things between high school and endless possibilities. This promise of a brighter tomorrow has been nothing but detrimental in my life and the lives of my friends.

If everyone is only around for five more months, then it seems doubtful that making new relationships would be beneficial. New friendships and courtships will only add to the list of goodbyes that must be said come August, and will only add to the homesickness that is imminent on Welcome Week.

This mentality I have experienced personally and second handedly is disheartening and wholly inaccurate. Just because there is a time constraint does not mean making new relationships is the wrong thing to do. I see no reason to sacrifice immediate happiness in hopes of making departures easier at the end of the summer, because regardless of the number of people that must be left behind, leaving is still going to be tough. Saying goodbye to 30 people is just as hard as saying goodbye to three, so having fun while the opportunity presents itself is really the best option. We are still kids and really should take advantage of our youth while we still have the time.

> "We are still kids and really should take advantage of our youth while we still have the time."
>
> **HANA SVETLOVICS**
> *Writer*

Constantly looking ahead to what life after high school will bring only expedites growing up. This does not mean future planning is not a necessity; it just means that there is a proper time and place for everything. Right now, we are meant to be kids and enjoy youth; we have our whole life to be adults.

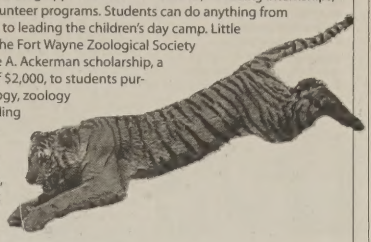
I find it no surprise that students are not the only ones living in the wrong tense. It seems that while we spend our nights dreaming of what lies ahead, our adult counterparts spend their time reminiscing of things that used to be. It seems that nostalgia can be a burden just as much as dreaming can be. A lot can be said for those that live, really live, in the present tense.

STAGE HAND

With the school year over and school plays therefore obsolete, Homestead's master thespians are forced to look elsewhere for dramatic opportunities. Fort Wayne's renowned Civic and Embassy Theaters offer numerous positions, some paid and others unpaid, as anything from ushers to set constructors, costume designers to tour guides. Future theater and fine arts majors may find it beneficial to know their way around the stage before pursuing the life of a dramatist.

ZOO VOLUNTEER

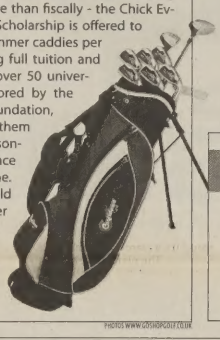
While it does not offer paid positions, the Fort Wayne's Children Zoo offers numerous forward-thinking opportunities for students, including internships, job shadows and volunteer programs. Students can do anything from assisting zookeepers to leading the children's day camp. Little known though it is, the Fort Wayne Zoological Society awards the Lawrence A. Ackerman scholarship, a one time payment of $2,000, to students pursuing careers in biology, zoology and medicine. Spending a summer at the zoo isn't simply a great way to indulge one's childhood memories, but an avenue to get a foot in the door of a scientific field.



PHOTOS WWW.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM

GOLF CADDY

For those who've had enough of the sunburns and stress of conventional lifeguarding yet still want to work under the sun, caddying at one of Fort Wayne's local golf courses is a simple solution. With proximal golf clubs including the Fort Wayne Country Club, Chestnut Hills Golf Club, Orchard Ridge Country Club and the Sycamore Hills Golf Club, caddies can work on their tan, socialize with experienced golfers and earn astronomical tips. Little do many students know, caddying pays off more than fiscally - the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship is offered to over 850 summer caddies per year, funding full tuition and housing at over 50 universities sponsored by the Evans Foundation, many of them within a reasonable distance of Fort Wayne. What could be a better trade than a summer of lugging clubs for four years



PHOTOS WWW.GOLFSHOPCITY.CO.UK

ANOTHER DAY *another* dollar

Preparation for summer job searches

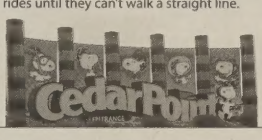
With college applications completed, some students may be content to sit back on their heels hoping that jobs and internships will gravitate to them, but for the far more enterprising student, March is the ideal transition period to apply. No longer are teenagers limited to conventional odd jobs such as life-guarding or fast-food service - with a slew of unknown opportunities at one's behest, teenagers can do anything under the summer sun, and the jobs may pay in more ways than one.

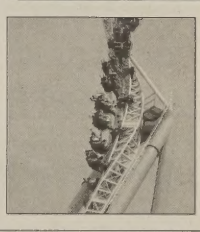
WETLANDS EXPLORER

For students interested in ecology who seek to replicate the experience of teaching sixth graders in the environmental center, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers paid summer positions for teens in every state. In a position with the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, students can analyze flora and fauna anywhere in the nation, even so close as the swampy marshes across the road from the Golf Dome.

AMUSEMENT PARK EMPLOYEE

For students with an adventurous temperament willing to leave the Fort Wayne area, Sandusky, Ohio's, wildly popular Cedar Point offers a plethora of summer jobs, including, but not limited to, ride operators, cash handlers, sweeps, merchandise associates, security guards and arcade employees. While a place to live is arguably a pressing concern, Cedar Point is already one step ahead, offering on-site employee housing at a reasonably low cost no higher than $35 per week. As if a fun environment wasn't enough, Cedar Point offers internships and college credit for working a summer job, namely for marketing and hospitality majors. Perhaps best of all, employees are permitted unlimited after-hours access to the park and can therefore ride the rides until they can't walk a straight line.





PHOTOS WWW.COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Spartan families own favored Southwest eateries

Students share firsthand experiences about working at family-owned restaurants

By Lexi Yanez
Writer • writer@thespartana.net

Everyone relishes an opportunity to dine out, but with managerial work becoming increasingly behind-the-scenes, people often fail to remember that someone must own the establishment. Though many students may not be aware, some of Fort Wayne's most-loved restaurants are owned by families of Homestead students, crafting an entirely unique experience.

Some students are embarrassed to see classmates at restaurants, while others enjoy seeing familiar faces. Whereas some duck behind counters or cringe at the thought of being seen in public with their parents, others bound toward acquaintances and strike up a conversation.

"I greet my friends and classmates that I see, but sometimes I do not want them to see me because there are some that beg non-stop for perks. When my friends and I go to the restaurant, they don't pay the bill, which I guess is nice for them," Alex Shin (11) said jokingly.

Shin's parents own Yen Ching, a local establishment located off of West Jefferson Boulevard which sells Chinese fare.

For some, however, it may not be a matter of choice.

"It's mandatory to greet people," Chelsea Cade (11), whose father manages Culver's off of West Jefferson Boulevard, said. "I can't always talk to my friends during work hours, but not many people know that I work there, anyway. The ones that do, I can talk with on my break."

Friends often seek perks from their friends' parent's restaurant, but they do not always receive them. One perk of going to a friend's restaurant is to get a discount on the bill. Another perk is to see the friend that is working at the restaurant. Holding parties at a restaurant is a perk for students whose parents own restaurants.

"Sometimes I give discounts, but not a whole lot of the time. My friends are always messing around about getting discounts," said Karen Tapia (12).

Tapia's father and uncle own the Riverside Café, where patrons can enjoy Mexican food and other delicacies.

"It is both good and bad that my dad and uncle own this restaurant. The bad part is that my parents are always working, although we do go out as a family sometimes. The good thing is when I work I get money and then I do not have to ask my parents for money when I go out," Tapia said.

Jobs have been hard to come by this year. Some students are fortunate in that their parents own businesses and can possibly give these students work opportunities.

"Sometimes I work there during the holidays, when it is busier than usual," Shin said. "However, I really do not have any intent on continuing Yen Ching when I grow up. I want to do something special of my own."

Continuing family businesses throughout the generations depends upon whether the sons and daughters of the family want to work in the family business or follow their own path.

"My dad is planning on opening a restaurant by himself without my uncle," Tapia said. "I do not have intentions of owning my own restaurant. Maybe once I get out of college I will have a job there."

Although being the child of a restaurateur may be beneficial in that it offers students a guaranteed job, one of its greatest perks may be the opportunity to give others perks.

"A lot of people think that they can get jobs just because my dad is in charge," Cade said. "I work hard for my pay and don't get special treatment. However, the best thing is that, when I know people who are applying, I can talk them up to my dad to help them get a job."

Students plan to get together at different places. Get-togethers are not always planned, though, and sometimes they occur spontaneously.

"Sometimes my friends go to the Riverside Café to see me working there, but when they go I am not always there. Generally they ask before they drive all the way there, but on occasions they arrive when I am not there," Tapia said.

Regardless of the pros and cons of being the child of owners of a notable establishment, there is something to be said for forging one's own path.

"My parents owning a restaurant does not really affect me," Shin said. "I don't run the place. My parents do."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Alex Shin (11) and his father stand inside of Yen Ching, a popular chinese restaurant in southwest Allen.

FAVORITE FOODS IN THE FORT

With over 900 locally owned restaurants and diners in Fort Wayne, it is hard to choose which ones stand above the rest. According to www.yelp.com some of the top food locations in all of Fort Wayne are Coney Island, Takaoka, Pint and Slice, Power's Burgers and Taj Mahal Indian Cuisine. Flanagan's, Tavern at Coventry, Sakura, Buffalo Wings and Ribs and Casa Ristorante are some of the best spots in the southwest area.

Course T-shirts provide sense of unity for science classes

Academic classes join realm of athletic, club organizations displaying school spirt on clothing apparel

By Alex Barnard
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Clothing has always been a way for people to express themselves and show different kinds of spirit. Traditionally, sports teams, clubs and other organizations have worn T-shirts to show their spirit and participation. Over the last two years, a new idea for T-shirts has come about. T-shirts for different classes have now given students and teachers alike a way to show which classes they are taking and teaching.

For example, last year, Earth-Space Science students had an opportunity to purchase T-shirts that had a student-designed logo on the front, thus starting yet another new trend at Homestead. This year, the trend continued with a new batch of designs and T-shirts.

"Mrs. B [Earth-Space Science teacher Mrs. Bogdonanwicz] thought it would be a good idea to unify the Earth-Space students, so we made them again" Emily Rapoza (11) said.

Design ideas were submitted to Bogdonanwicz. A committee of students was then set up to pick the favorite design.

"Shirts were originally supposed to be worn on test days," Rapoza said. "It hasn't been enforced as much as last year."

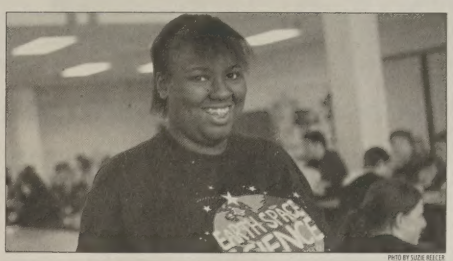


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Left: Tiffany Fagin (11) took Earth Space Science with teacher Nancy Bogdonanwicz last year. Bogdonanwicz asked classes to wear their T-shirts on test days last year, however, this year she has not enforced the rule as strongly. This year classes ordered sweatpants in addition to T-shirts because of their popularity last year.

The T-shirt idea was so successful that this year, the Earth-Space Science classes had the opportunity to purchase sweat pants with the new logo as well.

After seeing the success of the Earth-Space shirts, the Ecology classes decided to become part of the new trend and order shirts for themselves.

"Having the shirts worked out perfectly because we did a program last year where Ecology students led a field trip for sixth grade students and the sixth graders could easily identify the Ecology students," Ecology teacher Mrs. Palmer said.

Like the Earth-Space shirts, the Ecology shirts were designed and picked by the students. However, Palmer said she had to do a bit of "tweaking" with the design. The names of all the students that were enrolled in Ecology were put onto the back of the shirt.

This year, no decision has been made on whether a shirt will be ordered for the Ecology classes. Another project like the sixth grade field trip is in the works, which might bring about another opportunity for students to design and order shirts.

Yet another class hopped on the T-shirt bandwagon this year: Honors Physics. It was originally the idea of the two physics teachers, Mr. Lenfestey and Mr. Elder, to design the shirts. Students got to submit their own designs and the top three were selected by Mr. Lenfestey and Mr. Elder. Students got to vote on their favorite design. The colors were also selected by the students.

"It's really cool to see all of the shirts around," Bri Bardonner (11) said. "It helps to advertise the class and makes it seem more interesting to other students."

Bardonner explained students plan to wear their shirts on days that an experiment is to be held.

The opportunity to design T-shirts for classes has given students a chance to express themselves in a new and creative way. Seeing the shirts in the halls helps students to identify with others and promotes class unity.

'Erudite reader's curse' prompts temptation to see books adapted to film

PageBound

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

I am not often asked to recommend books, and seeing as my taste is highly precise and inflexible, I've come to the conclusion that perhaps this is for the better. Too many times have I advocated a classic novel, only for the reader to crack it upon, be horrified by the eloquent language of what I consider a phenomenal work of literature, and tragically vow never to revisit that author. However, I've discovered a means to the same end- tell them about the movie.

Whereas most teenagers see a film and are therefore inspired to read the source material, I am often tempted to see movies due to what can only be described as the erudite reader's curse: a compulsive need to expose oneself to all incarnations, no matter how poorly adapted, of a beloved novel. And so, I enter the theater or begin the DVD with childlike hopefulness, only to conclude the screening gushing pleasantries about the faithfulness of the adaptation, or worse, being the theater companion that no one whatsoever enjoys accompanying to the movies, the one hissing "this isn't right!" or "that wasn't in the book!"

In light of J.D. Salinger's recent death, directors have converged upon the film rights to The Catcher in the Rye not unlike vultures flock to a corpse. However, I cringe at the prospect of Salinger's masterpiece in film format, because Catcher is, to me, more a philosophical experience than it is an exceptional story, and such novels never adapt well.

Exhibit A of the aforementioned principle is Everything is Illuminated. My love of Jonathan Safran Foer's matchless debut is unparalleled by any other novel; I consider it to be the consummate illustration of all that a book can and should be. To me, a novel's strength lies not in the narrative, but in the how artistic the language is, in how the emotional connotation is packed into the word choice, in the metaphysical space between the adjectives. Illuminated is brutally funny, brutally brutal, and above all else poignantly touching, but it is what it is because of Foer's exceptional way with language, not because of its story, and Liev Schreiber couldn't possibly have captured such linguistic brilliance on camera, no matter how hard he tried. A great novel isn't simply a story – it's a work of art, and that rarely can be caught on film.

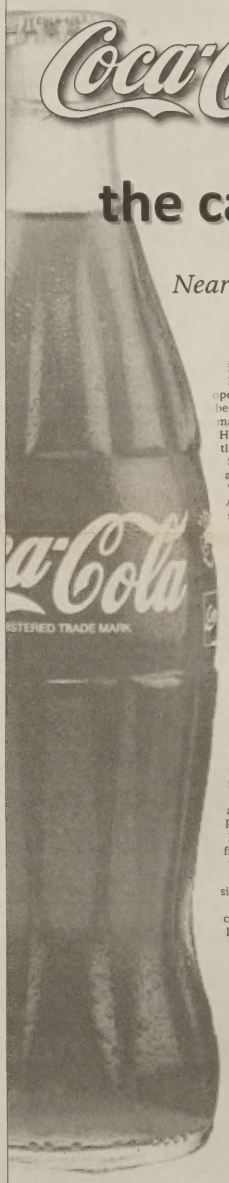
But sometimes, directors succeed, a truth no better exemplified than by Lord of the Rings. Not only did Peter Jackson create a faithful, visually phenomenal adaptation and have the exceptional insight to omit Tolkien's occasionally dull characters (who wanted to watch Tom Bombadil sing, anyway?), but his adaptation made millions fall in love with enchanting, beautifully written books.

I understand that it's difficult to strike a harmonious balance with the lovers of the source, but I think that, ultimately, the greatest scenario that can come from a film adaptation is one in which moviegoers learn to love and cherish a novel they otherwise wouldn't have.

Coca-Cola plant twists open the cap to refreshness

Nearly century-old bottling plant becomes symbol of city

By Laura Zweig
Writer • staff@thespartana.net



It's a Coke thing.

Fort Wayne's famous Coca-Cola Bottling Plant opened its doors almost 100 years ago and has been a staple in the city ever since. However, many are unaware of the factory's service to Homestead. Now in its second location, the Bottling Plant resides on the Airport Expressway.

So what role does the bottling plant play in creating the best friend thirst ever had?

"We do everything except make the product," Aaron Brown, sale center manager of the plant, said. "It's a warehouse and sales operation."

The plant, which sells around 3.5 million Coke products a year, delivers the delicious, refreshing, invigorating, exhilarating beverage to all businesses that offer Coke in the greater Fort Wayne area. This includes supermarkets, hypermarkets like Walmart and Target, gas stations, drug stores, restaurants and schools, including Homestead.

"I'm happy that Homestead is a Coca-Cola school. I think that's the right choice," Katherine Troutman (9) said.

Troutman is not the only student living on the Coke side of life.

"I feel very happy when I see Coke around the school, but become mad when I see Pepsi and not Coke," Darby Cook (9) said.

Emily Kaminski (9), however, chooses to refresh with Pepsi.

"I like Pepsi. It just tastes better," Kaminski said.

Ryan Boylan (9), a former pop-drinker, tends to side with Pepsi as well.

"Pepsi gives drinkers more ability to drink incredibly fast because Pepsi has a taste that is less acidic than that of Coke," Boylan said.

Some students, like Michaela Eitsert (11) and Jack Hagedorn (9) choose to remain neutral.

"I hate both," Eitsert said. "I drink water or tea instead."

Hagedorn makes his choice based on price, going "with whatever's cheapest."

Pepsi is Coca-Cola's biggest competition, according to Brown.

"While we have similar products, we have better service," Brown said. "The real difference is better customer service."

One thing that sets Coca-Cola apart is its efforts to help things go better with Coke.

"We're very involved locally," Brown said. "Several staff members participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program."

In the coming weeks, the plant will be hosting an Easter egg hunt for local kids at their facility. In addition, Coca-Cola workers play a prominent role in local chapters of Habit for Humanity and United Way. Locally, they read for children in schools and work with the Fort Wayne Urban League.

> "I wish I could go [tour the factory] because it would be fun to know what they actually put in the coke and how they make it."
>
> **ASHLEE NICHTER (10)**
> *Coca-Cola Drinker*

Though the plant does not offer internships, they do give away college scholarships to deserving students.

Unfortunately for students thirsting to see behind the scenes, the plant does not offer public tours.

"We occasionally offer tours for local groups, but we're not open to the public due to safety concerns," Brown said.

This news is saddening for Ashlee Nichter (10) in particular.

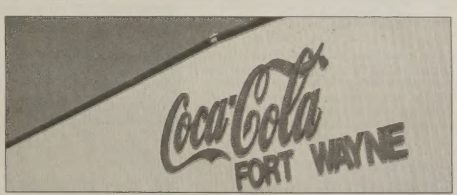
"I wish I could go [tour the factory] because it would be fun to know what they actually put in the Coke and how they make it," Nichter said. "The free samples would be awesome too."

Troutman is also disappointed.

"I love taking tours of factories," Troutman said. "I would sneak in just to see it."

Coca-Cola Enterprises has used its passport to refreshment to become recognized around the world.

"The best part about working at Coca-Cola is working for the most recognized trademark in the world," Brown said. "It's nice being part of a company that has made such an impact."



Fort Wayne's Coca-Cola Bottling Plant opened its doors nearly a century ago and has since become an iconic symbol of the city. The plant is currently located on Airport Expressway which the companies second location since opening in the city.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER | PHOTO WWW.ANDREWDRAGE.CO.UK.COM

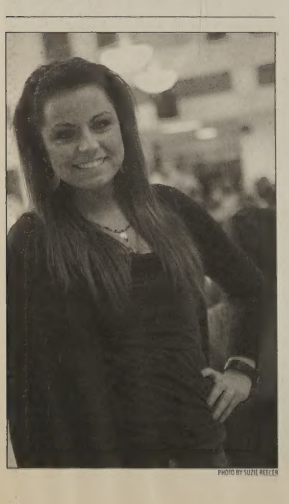


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Wall's singing tops 2,500 other participants

Show choir member participates in Indiana's Got Talent competition

Dreams are starting to come true for singer Taylor Wall (12), who defeated over 2500 other participants in 2009's Indiana's Got Talent competition. The contest, which featured singers, dancers, and a whole slew of other acts, is Wall's first step. With her strong background in singing and show choir, the senior hopes to someday audition for American Idol. In an interview with The Spartana, Wall shares her experiences that led her to her success in song.

The Spartana: How did you get involved with singing?

Wall: "I've been in choir and show choir my whole life. It's kind of a funny story; when my sisters and I were really young, we would go to our grandma's house all the time and put on performances... and I was just always singing... then in elementary, I was in choir and I did solos ... and then in middle school I upgraded my performance to show choir and had solos in middle school too. Then in high school, my freshman year I went to Northside and I was in show choir there and I transferred to Homestead and became a part of Homestead's show choir. This year I did Indiana's Got Talent and I made the top 70 out of 3000."

The Spartana: What was the Indiana's Got Talent experience like?

Wall: "It was on a Saturday morning. I didn't know it was going on at Glenbrook. I woke up at 9:30 or 10 to screaming texts and phone calls from all my friends and family, mostly from my family, saying 'Taylor, Indiana's Got Talent, which copies America's Got Talent is at Glenbrook today. You need to get your butt there and show your talent. Everybody knows you can do it. You have a chance of winning and going forward.'... I was freaking out and that's how I found out. I went there and signed up and performed the next day."

The Spartana: How did the Indiana's Got Talent process work?

Wall: "First you had to go to sign-up and you talked to the judges and they signed you up and they gave you a number of what time you performed.... Then the first audition was in November and it was just an auditions, and if you made that you went to semi-finals and after that you went to finals. There were only three steps, and I made it to finals."

The Spartana: What songs did you sing?

Wall: "I sang "I Wonder" by Kellie Pickler twice and I sang another one by Carrie Underwood once."

The Spartana: How did you feel when you performed?

Wall: "It was an amazing feeling. It felt like a young girl chasing after her dreams."

The Spartana: How do you think all your experiences have helped you become a better performer?

Wall: "They've helped me be less nervous. When I first stared performing I had anxiety problems and my whole body would shake and stuff. Performing with show choir and doing solos and those kinds of things, I learned to calm myself down and learned to deal with my problems for being scared and freaking myself out."

Taylor Wall (12) defeated over 2,500 other participants in the Indiana's Got Talent competition. Wall participates in show choir and believes that this will prepare her to audition for "American Idol" someday.

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

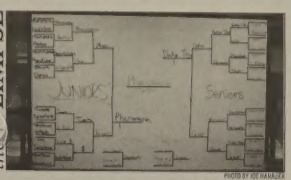


PHOTO BY JOE MALAZA

Dirty Duckers kicked off its annual tournament Wednesday as a part of student government's Just Because Week. The cost to get in was either two cans that would be donated to the local Harvest Bank, or $3. The tournament had over 20 teams involved, six to seven players on each team, as well as two coaches per team. The junior team won for the second year in a row, upsetting the senior team that had won the tournament during the previous competition.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Swim team baffles preseason rankings in state tournament

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Motivation can help teams and athletes achieve the unthinkable in every level of every sport. For the boys' swim team, motivation came in the form of votes, or lack thereof. At the beginning of the season, before the team had even stepped into the pool for a meet, the Indiana High School Swimming Coaches Association Poll ranked the team only twenty-fifth best in the state, despite the team's seventh place finish in last year's state meet.

"We graduated a lot of seniors, so I personally thought twenty-fifth best in the state was a fairly accurate ranking on paper, but I knew we had the potential to finish in the top ten [at the end of the year]," coach Chad Englehart said.

The team placed tenth best overall in this year's boys' swimming state meet in Indianapolis. Leading the team was Blake Johnson (11), who qualified for the finals in both of his individual events. Johnson placed fourth best in the 100 butterfly, improving on his fifth place performance as a sophomore. Johnson also placed twelfth in the 50 freestyle, an event Johnson did not qualify for last year.

"I did not do as well as I would have wanted to [in my individual events]," Johnson said. "I really thought I would have done better in the 50 Freestyle, but overall I was pleased."

Another bright spot in the team's state performance were three team relays. 54 of the team's 76 total points were earned in the three relays, including 28 points in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Despite the addition of two new swimmers to this year's relay team, the squad was able to propel the team from fourteenth place to tenth place in the last event of the meet. The team placed fifth in state in the 400-yard freestyle relay, a great improvement from last year's team.

"It was huge for me. We've been in the top ten for the last eight years and we did not want that tradition to die, so we knew what we needed to do," Jacob Cook (10) said, who swam in all three of the team's relays and swam the third leg of the team's 400-yard freestyle relay.

Despite the boys' swim team's tenth-place performance, the team may have let points slip away. In the state tournament, individuals must place sixteenth or higher in the preliminaries to qualify for the finals and receive points for the overall team's score. Swimmers Patrick Smith (12), Logan Johnson (11), and Jacob Furnas (11) all finished one place short of qualifying for the B finals in their event. The 200 medley relay team and the 200 freestyle relay team both finished in ninth in the preliminaries, falling short of qualifying for the A finals.

"It was disappointing for both teams to fall just one spot short, but considering how young both relay teams were, it was a fairly successful meet for our relay teams in general," Coach Englehart said.

In spite of this year's young and fairly inexperienced team, next year's team should see even more success. Only one swimmer who qualified for a finals event, Patrick Smith (12) a member of the 200 medley relay team, will not be returning for next year's campaign.

"I think we have more potential than any year [that I have been on Homestead's team] heading into next year," Cook said. "I can see us finishing top three next year easily."

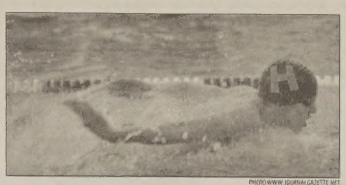


PHOTO BY WWW.JOURNALGAZETTE.NET

Spartana swimmer Blake Johnson (11) finished fourth place in the 100-yard butterfly at the boys' state swimming meet.

▶▶6

Numbers of Homestead swimmers who swam in the IHSAA state tournament. The team would go on to finish 10th overall.

FACING THE GIANTS

PHOTO BY SADIE REECER

Basketball team loses 4 of 6 games after starting record-breaking season at 15-1

By Max Isroff
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

The boy's varsity basketball team had high hopes coming into this season, hopes that looked promising after the team started the season with a school record of 15-1. In that stretch, the Spartans beat city schools such as Harding and NHC rival Carroll. The team's newest addition, Tim Dunn (12), was able to set a school record of 44 points scored in one game against Northside. Next to other NHC schools, the team looked almost unbeatable and won each game by an average of 13 points. The team proved that they could overcome sudden challenges, too, when senior guard Andy Phillippe (12) stepped up to fill the void left by point guard Zach Terrell (10) when Terrell injured his ankle against Columbia City and could only play limited minutes. The varsity team carried their momentum throughout the regular season, and they hoped to keep their original goal of making a deep run into the postseason.

"The beginning of the season was great. We were having fun playing and went out every game and played our style of basketball, " said junior Drew Sery (11). Sery had a good season overall including a winning shot against Concordia early in the season.

That was until Feb. 17, when the boys' season came crashing around them. At that night's game against Elmhurst, the team lost for the first time in over two months with a final score of 65-60. The Elmhurst game was the beginning of the downward spiral that led to the team's final loss in the sectional semi-finals against Marion. The original sign of distress came two games earlier in the second quarter against Canterbury when Terrell, who was finally beginning to show signs of his old self after his ankle injury at Columbia City, re-injured his leg. With Terrell out, the team lacked a player who could hit the three and provide a powerful defensive presence. The Spartans lost four out of the next six games and were unable to regain the ability to stay victorious that the team had enjoyed for the first three months of the season.

Shortly after losing to Elmhurst, the team fell to NHC rival Norwell. The team drew South Side in the first round of sectionals, a team that they had lost to earlier in the season. Even without Jay Curry (12) who was suspended for that game due to his actions during the previous Norwell game, the team prevailed, beating South Side 63-57 in the first game of the IHSAA sectional tournament.

Defensively, the team struggled as they allowed an average of 63 points per game in the last six games compared to an average of 52 points per game during the first 16 games of the season. However, the lack of team play hurt the team much more than their defensive challenges. On the court, the team visibly struggled to win and to lose as a team. Instead, individuals placed themselves on a higher shelf then their teammates, creating a lack of cohesion that had not been seen during the first half of the season.

"It's definitely disappointing," said Curry. "It's not how I wanted to end my career at Homestead. After getting off to such a good start, we all were beginning to really believe in ourselves. Then things just fell apart. It's hard to deal with."

The only bright spot in the final part of the season was the performance of senior Desmond Powers (12), who stepped up in the team's two sectional games to hit three consecutive three-point shots in the third quarter of the semi-final loss to Marion. Powers' shots helped to put the Spartans back into the game, a fitting way to end what he described as a "roller coaster" career with the team.

After the best start in school history and a winning streak that spanned over two months, the team's hopes of a deep run into the state tournament seemed promising. However, their inability to perform in the final six games, including the sectional semi-final game against Marion, led to their ultimate demise.

> "It's definitely disappointing, and it's not how I wanted to end my basketball career at Homestead."
>
> **JAY CURRY (12)**
> *Varsity Power Forward*

▶▶11

Difference in points allowed per game after team ended 15-1 regular season start.

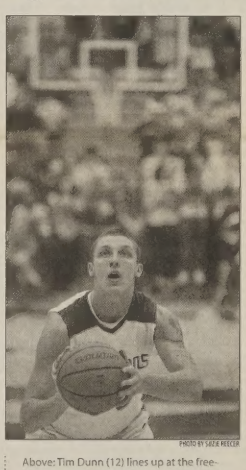


PHOTO BY SADIE REECER

Above: Tim Dunn (12) lines up at the free-throw against Marion. Top: Drew Sery (11) exits the court after losing.

Fort Wayne fills brackets of girls' state basketball tournament

By Jacob Cook
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Three-peat state championships do not occur often for many Fort Wayne sports. For the Canterbury varsity girl's basketball team, however, a third state team title was something they had been looking forward to all year, and they accomplished their goal this past Saturday. The Canterbury victory was not the only three that ruled the day, though. Three girls' teams from the Fort Wayne area competed for a title in this past Saturday's IHSAA 2010 Girls' Basketball State Finals.

Concordia Lutheran and Bishop Luers were the other two local teams that competed for a state championship. Concordia was victorious in their Class 3A match-up against Rushville, winning with a score of 59-48. Bishop Luers fought a close battle and lost by only five points in the Class 2A finals to Austin. After going into overtime, Luers lost their game with a score of 70-65. Class 2A was represented by the Canterbury girls, who won their third straight state title against Vincennes Rivet with a final score of 69-65. In Class 4A, the only class not represented by Fort Wayne, Ben Davis won their fifty-eighth straight state title, a state record, against Merriville with a final score of 99-52. With games starting as early as ten o'clock, the final game started at approximately 7:30 that night.

In addition to its representation by the three teams at the state finals, Fort Wayne itself found its way into history. For the first time, the state finals were held at the War Memorial Coliseum in downtown Fort Wayne. Hosting the state tournament in Fort Wayne brought in a strong revenue, as over 12,000 fans were reported by the IHSAA to be in attendance in the Coliseum during that day. At 15$ per ticket, it is projected that the Coliseum made over $180,000 in ticket sales alone. While Canterbury looks to defend its title, other teams will be sure to try to knock them off the podium next season.

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teams represented Fort Wayne the morning of Feb. 28 in the IHSAA girls' basketball state finals at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

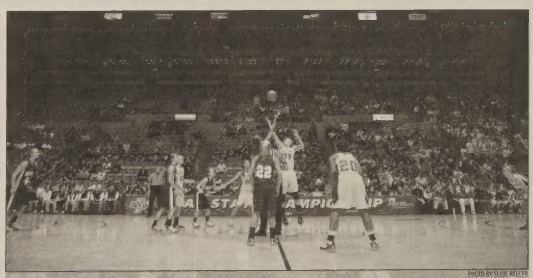

PHOTO BY SADIE REECER

PHOTO BY WWW.NEWS-SENTINEL.COM

PHOTO BY WWW.NEWS-SENTINEL.COM

Top: Canterbury wins the tip-off against Vincennes Rivet in the first game of the day. Above Left: Coach Denny Renier gives his team a pep-talk during a time out. Above Right: Andrea Newbauer drives past a Rushville defender in the 3A matchup game. Bottom: Canterbury's team celebrates after taking home their third consecutive state championship title.

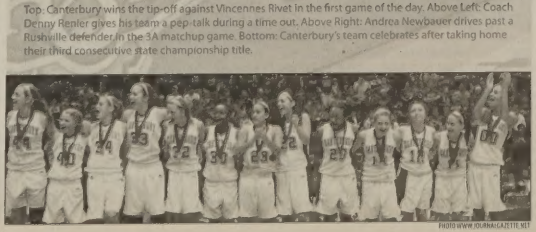

PHOTO BY WWW.JOURNALGAZETTE.NET

Track teams begin indoor practices even as outdoor conditions dampen hopes

By Blake Johnson
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

As the weather warms and spring approaches, the track season is off and running. Both the boys' and girls' track teams currently practice every day to prepare for the approaching regular season.

"The practices really aren't too bad. As a distance runner, we obviously run more than the sprinters, but it doesn't bother me," Donny Heath (12) said. "I'm really looking forward to this season because it will be the last time I ever do a sport at Homestead. I really want to finish with something I can be happy with."

Members of the Homestead track team have already participated in indoor track meets this year. The indoor track meets help prepare the runners for the outdoor season that is quickly approaching.

"There are a few differences between indoor track and outdoor track. The wind factor is one difference, but basically running is running no matter where the meet is," Kodi Mullins (11). "Indoor track just gets us prepared for the high school season, and the meets let us know where we are in our training. Obviously it's tough to run the times I do during the season because we have not been training that long. It helps a lot to prepare me mentally for the outdoor season."

> "I'm really looking forward to this season because it will be the last time I ever do a sport at Homestead."
>
> **DONNY HEATH (12)**
> *Track Runner*

The first official Homestead track meet will take place against Elmhurst on March 23 at Homestead. The Spartans, led by sprinter Austin Barnes (12), are looking forward to another impressive season, and hopefully, they will finish with a strong appearance at the state finals.

Trivial student section at fall sporting events changes for the better

A few months ago, I wrote one of my favorite columns about how the football team lacked student spirit in the regional championship game against Warsaw. The idea was inspired by Derek Luttrell (12), as we were two of the few poncho-less fools who chose to go to the game that dreary night and soon realized that the parents widely outnumbered the students. I concluded that student spirit was at an all-time low, and that I really should have brought an umbrella.

I'm generally not one to eat my own words, but I have made two mistakes while writing my past few columns. First and foremost, people DO care about hockey. As the Homestead hockey season has progressed, their fan base has grown. And second, people DO care about Homestead athletics.

CUP OF JOE

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

Flashback to last year. Homestead played the once-good Snider Panthers during Homestead's Senior Night. The student section was stacked deep, all the way to the top of the bleachers. There were so many people that even the freshman had to stand to see the game.

Flashforward to now (this feels like a LOST episode), or at least up to about two weeks ago. A feeling of deja vu spread through the student section as I turned around and saw that the student section matched that of the Snider game last year. Having seen the difference in the number of students at the Warsaw football game last fall to the Senior Night game against Norwell this year, I was shocked to see the turnaround in that night's attendance. With at least 80 students present, Homestead had finally shown that it is feasible to create a legitimate student section. Although the game ended with disappointment, the euphoria that spread with the larger crowd brought more enjoyment for all who attended.

While Homestead lost this year's Senior Night game against Norwell, what happened outside of the game was only a reflection of what the student section could really become. And for those who think that the fans don't make a difference in the game, think again. Take a look at big-name universities like Syracuse, Louisville and Duke. Their ability to coordinate a 'white-out' makes the stadiums look more appealing than the closing ceremonies of the Olympics. All of these universities have well-known student sections, and they are specifically well-known for being able to involve the entire stadium in chants and white-outs or black-outs, a concept that Homestead still hasn't fully grasped.

> "...what happened outside of the game was only a reflection of what the student section could really become. For those who think that the fans don't make a difference in the game, think again."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

Most importantly, the fan section showed me that it was greatly improving after the first-ever "fan bus" was organized for the trip to Marion High School for last Friday's sectional game. Fans had made attempts last year to use transportation to travel to an away game, but until last Friday, nothing had been accomplished like the "fan bus."

Marion ended up making a shot that would have challenged Stephen Curry with only eight seconds left to tie the game. Aside from the seemingly sour note on which the team's season ended, it was promising to see that Homestead had brought a raucous student section that rivaled, if not triumphed, Marion's student section at that night's game.

As I said before, I'm generally not one to eat my own words. But for once, I'm excited to see the turnaround in student morale at not only basketball games, but at all Homestead athletic events in general. Mel Kiper Jr. could not have predicted that there would be a student section at hockey games this year nor that the number of student fans at the basketball games would continually grow. If he could, I'd be okay with seeing him on ESPN for the majority of the NFL off-season.

While the student section may not have the most consistent numbers during each game, the numbers our school produces when the games count can hardly be beaten by any other school. When our cheerleaders are missing coaches and our band is separated from the students by a group of parents that will stand only for the national anthem, it's hard to stay "hyped" when the odds are against us.

Even if the game against Marion was a preview of what the student section could become, it's promising to see the potential that Homestead has. In a school that has over 2,400 students, it should not be difficult to corral a few handfuls of students for a basketball game. With the student section's growth progressing on a positive trend, it's promising to see Homestead athletics constantly grow in popularity.

Hockey team assesses season, begins preparations for next year

BY CONNOR O'HARA
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The Homestead Hockey team has stunned all by clearing through their regular season with ease, and propelling themselves into the postseason with a power that made them look unstoppable.

The team has had one of their best seasons in the history that this club sport has been with Homestead. The Spartans have come out with numerous wins giving them one of the best club hockey records in the area.

"This season has gone really well. Since it is my senior year, it's been fun to be a leader and also one of the veterans on the team," Kevin Kelley (12) said.

The Spartan's first slip up on their undefeated season came last Saturday as the team ventured to Indianapolis for the state tournament. The Spartans lost 3-1 to Carmel Gold. Homestead scored their first with a goal by Jarred Gidley (12). Carmel then went on to score three unanswered goals.

> "The harder the ice is, the faster we skate and the new rink is colder, so it's a faster rink."
>
> **JARRED GIDLEY (12)**
> *Varsity Hockey Player*

The Spartans faced off against Northrop for the city championship title on Wednesday, March 10. The team defeated Northrop four to one Wednesday in the FWAHSL semi-final game. Defenseman Adam Limina (10, Warsaw) had three assists while Jarred Gidley (12), Justin Glick (12, Blackhawk), Paul Lee (9) and Max Dvorak (9) all added goals. Nick Rahn (11) played near perfect as he allowed just one goal on 16 shots.

Homestead will now play rival Carroll in the City Championship on Wednesday. The team has beaten Carroll in all four contests and looks to keep their season perfect picking up their 21st league win. The game will be played at the new Canlan Ice Sports Complex at 7:00. This game will prove to be the real test of a team who so far has been one of the most exemplary performers of all the Homestead athletic programs.

"We have a really good team this year and we've been playing well all year. We are still undefeated and we all hope to keep it that way," Paul Lee (9) said. Lee, although still a freshman, has emerged out of the crowd of players as one the youngest and most promising players. Lee will definitely prove to be a player to watch as the years continue with this program.

The Spartans have recently come into a good deal of luck, as they now have a brand-spanking-new arena to face off against their opponents with. "The new rink [Canlan Ice Sports] is a great facility. The first couple of weeks the ice was a bit rough and the fans didn't admire the lack of seating. Now that there are several layers of ice, it's a really nice surface to skate on. Also, the seating has been improved because they finally installed the bleachers," Kelley said.

With a game such as Hockey, the ice makes all the difference. If you have bad ice, players are more likely to slip up and not get to their positions. Thus throwing everything out of order and forcing the team to regroup. Thankfully, with this arena, the team does not have these problems. "

The harder the ice is, the faster the we skate and the new rink is colder, so it's a faster rink," Jarred Gidley (12) said. Gidley, a senior on the team, is especially excited for the upcoming city tournament game. This tournament will be Gidley's last chance to leave his mark on this team, and it's clear that he has every intention of using this opportunity to the fullest.

As their season comes to a close, the Spartans are forced to reminisce on their past seasons and evaluate themselves at the beginning of the season, to where they are now. It's clear that Spartans have made huge improvements as the season went on. "Our team as a whole has begun passing better and playing as a team, rather then a one man show." Gidley said.

The Spartans will loose many seniors as their season comes to a close, but their team remains optimistic. The Homestead Hockey team is a very young team, with many great players in the progress of becoming well-known. "Although we will lose a lot of talented seniors, we should pick up some good rookies that will hopefully keep Homestead on top for years to come," Rob Lee (11) said. Wish the Spartans luck in their city tournament, as the season of Homestead's most promising sport comes to a close.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REICH

Top: Kevin Kelley (12) brings the puck down the ice towards the Spartans goal. The team plays home games at the new ice skating facilitating, Canlan Ice Sports, which replaced their old home, McMillian Ice Arena. Left: The Spartan team huddles together after a goal was scored. Above: Andrew Lee (11) prepares to fight for the puck against the opposing team as a new period begins.

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Northrop HS, '09
Fort Wayne
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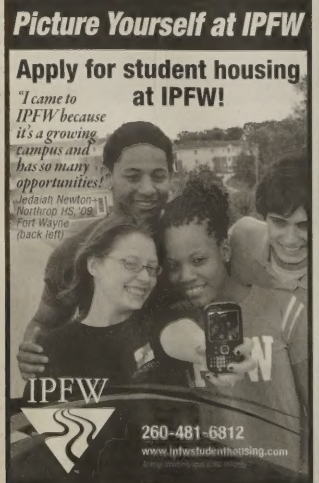

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POP CULTURE MATRIX	THIS SEASON MY GOAL WAS TO...	FAVORITE MEMORY OF THE SEASON WAS...	MY FIRST DAY OFF FROM MY SPORT I...	THE WORST DRIVER AT HHS IS...
BRAD MILLS (11) Wrestling	"Place at state."	"Pinning Andrew Bultemier from Bellmont after he'd beat me twice this year."	"Ate cookies and played Mario Kart Wii."	"Daniel Deschner, no can top him."
WHITNEY NEAL (11) Basketball	"My main goal was to just play my role and play it well."	"I especially enjoyed making our dance clip to warm up the Woodsider's for ISTEP."	"On my first day off I went to the Y and worked out and played basketball"	"Daniel Deschner for the guys at least."
SARAH LOHMAN (10) Swimming	"This season my goal was to go a low 58 in hundred back."	"Sneaking out of practice and going outside to bring in a bunch of snow for a snow fight."	"My first day off from my sport I went to Starbucks with the girls."	"Emily Duequette."
JOEL FOREMAN (10) Swimming	"To break 50 in the hundred free and go to state for an event."	"Trying to dump snow on my coach at practice."	"I just rested and hung out with people."	"Kersten Laughlin."
DREW SERY (11) Basketball	"Win conference and sectionals."	"Winning the Carroll game."	"Just hung out and was lazy ."	"Too many to count."

the NEXT65

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO WWW.ABOUT.COM

The Next 65 highlights events and things to do for the weekend. Reviews of current movies, concerts listings, upcoming theatrical productions and local events such as the Get Green celebration are all here. These events are all within a two-hour drive of Fort Wayne. Get some friends together and take advantage of what the region has to offer. Use these 65 hours, from 3 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday, wisely.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

Saint Patrick's Day festivals celebrate more than Irish heritage

By Rachel Shinn
Writer-staff@thespartana.net

Every year, Saint Patrick's Day is filled with festive celebrations and green-themed parties. While some festivities are geared for the older crowd, others, like the annual Get Green gathering, provide a fun way for students to participate in this festive holiday.

While many Homestead students find St. Patrick's Day simply a day to wear green, others of Irish roots find this day a celebration of their heritage.

"I do feel like I need to participate [in events], in part because my great-grandparents emigrated from Ireland," Ross Kibby (12) said. "I don't do as much as I should because there isn't much to do for celebrations around Fort Wayne."

March 17 is the date designated to celebrate the life of the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. Through the course of over 20 years, he converted many Irish to Christianity. He died on March 17, and the day eventually came to be known as St. Patrick's Day, originally a Catholic celebration that has evolved into a more secular holiday or even a day for everyone to be Irish.

For some, participating in events and celebrations on St. Patrick's Day is a religious practice or a family tradition. For the rest, wearing green, rubbing blarney stones and searching for shamrocks represent the yearly fun.

"My mom goes crazy on St. Patrick's Day," Alaina Jones (11) said. "She wears all green and a bunch of crazy necklaces."

"My family wears green and festive accessories like pins and jewelry," Kristine Marshall (11) said. "We have an authentic Irish meal of corn beef and cabbage and we watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Chicago."

While some students and their families may go "all-out" on St. Patrick's Day, others see the day as just as an ordinary one.

"I don't remember to wear green on St. Patrick's Day," Esli Barron (11) said. "I just forget."

For those looking for St. Patrick's Day fun, the Get Green celebration will take place tomorrow at the West Pavilion in Headwaters Park.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., the event will feature a 5K race starting at 9:30 a.m. at the cul-de-sac on Calhoun Street. Using eco-friendly vegetable dye, a river greening of the St. Mary's River will take place at 11 a.m. At noon at the Wells Street Foot Bridge, there will be a parade led by a vintage 1942 fire truck and a walking of Wells, Superior and Calhoun Streets. Following the parade, a Lucky Charms eating competition will take place at 1 p.m., with the winner earning bragging rights and a trophy.

> "I do feel like I need to participate [in events] in part because my great grandparents emigrated from Ireland."
>
> **ROSS KIBBY (12)**
> *Decendent of Irish Heritage*

Ending the day's events at 4 p.m. is the strongman competition, in which teams will push, pull and lift water-filled kegs, tractor tires and kettle bells; lastly, there will be a fire truck pull.

"Not many people know about the celebration, but every year, we have an incredible turn-out," Stacey Fleming, event co-coordinator, said.

With over 1,000 expected to attend, this all-day family event will feature live music and food provided by Club Soda and beverages provided by the Mad Anthony Brewing Company.

For many with Irish roots, the obligation of celebrating always turns out for the better.

"It's not an obligation if you enjoy it," Jim Simon (11) said.

The Chicago River is dyed Irish green annually as a part of the Saint Patrick's Day parade, a tradition marking its 44th year on Saturday.

CARTOON BY CELIA GRUNGNAN | PHOTO WWW.UPLOAD.WIKIMEDIA.COM

PERFORMANCES

"Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat"
The Civic Theater is performing this Andrew Lloyd Weber classic at the Arts United Center through March 21. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., and an additional matinee will be held on Saturday, March 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $24 and can be purchased by calling 260-424-5220 or by visiting the Arts United ticket box.

A Celtic Celebration
The Heartland Chamber Chorale will perform "A Celtic Celebration" in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Shows are Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Rhinehart Recital Hall at IPFW. Tickets are $19 or $24 and are available at the choir's website or by calling 260-436-8080.

Norah Jones
Norah Jones will perform at the Murat Egyptian Room in Indianapolis on Saturday at 8 p.m. as part of her promotion for her new album "The Fall." Tickets are $50-$60 and are available at tickets.livenation.com.

Willie Nelson
The famed country singer will perform at the Embassy Theater on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from $32-$57.50 and can be purchased at the Embassy box office or at ticketmaster.com.

"You Can't Take It With You"
The University of St. Francis will be performing "You Can't Take It With You" March 19 through March 28 at the North Campus Auditorium. Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling 260-399-7700, extension 8001.

Magical Music of Disney
The Fort Wayne Philharmonic will play a mix of Disney songs with projections of classic clips from Disney movies at their concert at Auer Performance Hall at IPFW on March 21 at 2 p.m. Other activities beginning at 1 p.m. will be available as well. Tickets are $6 for kids and $12 for adults and are available at fwphil.org. and are available at fwphil.org.

Annual FAME festival provides entertainment for all ages

Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Education showcases creative, cultural arts

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer - staff@thespartana.net

The annual FAME festival focuses on the arts in local elementary and middle schools – but that does not mean that only the little kids can have fun. The Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Education's annual event takes place at the Grand Wayne Center this weekend and offers a variety of activities, ranging from cultural art projects to the exploration of musical instruments.

Two of the festival's main activities are elementary and middle school choir performances, consisting of over 2,300 performing students, as well as the display of 3,000 pieces of student artwork, including works from paintings to sculptures.

Students such as Alex Tsiguloff (11) have fond memories of attending FAME during their elementary school years.

"I sang with Deer Ridge Elementary's choir, the Vocal Voyagers. I had some art in there, too," Tsiguloff said. "I made an African mask out of bleached construction paper, beads and yarn."

Reflecting this year's theme "The Amazing Race Through the Arts – Gera, Plock, Takaoka," children will have the opportunity to create art projects based on the cultures of Fort Wayne's sister cities in Germany, Poland and Japan, respectively.

"FAME provides an Imaginarium for parents and children to play with art projects emphasizing our cultural focus," Beth Peter, executive director of FAME, said.

Art specialists from Northwest Allen County schools have planned a long list of projects for the Imaginarium area, which includes German gingerbread house cookies, Polish Pycanki eggs and Japanese origami. Peter says that while these projects will be fun for young children, their parents will be able to grasp the symbolism in these countries' traditions.

"When you look at one of these projects, for instance, the egg painting of Poland, we are reminded of their way of life, and with further study you can understand the symbolism of the egg and the colors and design. You start to understand the people more," she said.

Although FAME is a distant memory for many high school students, some can recall their experiences with the festival's crafts.

"I remember making corn husk dolls. They had stations set up with several different things for kids to do," Tsiguloff said.

One FAME staple again present this year is t-shirt painting.

"I remember making t-shirts and feeling like I was wearing the best piece of art there," Ashlee Nichter (10) said. "I always felt like a true artist."

Along with the FAME t-shirts, visitors can purchase a variety of festival-related items, such as sweatpants, recipes from around the world and DVDs of performances. For hungry visitors, the Hilton will also provide concessions.

Local businesses such as TAG Art Company, Larry Ford Drum Circle, Arts United, Fred Myers Pianos and Quinlan and Fabish Music Store will have areas set up as well. Quinlan and Fabish will provide an "instrument playground," where curious visitors can explore different musical instruments.

"Every year is so different because of the cultures studied. We will not be back to Germany, Poland and Japan for many years," Peter said. "Visitors should come out for a unique opportunity to explore their cultures through the arts."

FAST FACTS ON Fame

Festival Location: Grand Wayne Convention Center on 120 West Jefferson Blvd.
Festival Hours: Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Setup: Friday 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Teardown: Sunday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Admission: $3 for Adults, children free
Parking: All-day parking at Hilton garage and Harrison Square garage is $2. Parking is also available at Anthis Career Center.

PHOTO WWW.AMAZON.COM

TAKE THREE

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Rated PG
Rave

Director Tim Burton's re-imagination of "Alice in Wonderland" is just that, a re-imagination. It's not the light, fluffy story expected after viewing the previous Disney cartoon version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale.

The story follows Alice Kingsley (Mia Wasikowska), who is visiting Underland for the second time. She does not remember her first journey there, and thus her identity as Alice, the one who will slay the Jabberwocky, is questioned. She meets the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp), who is slightly bonkers, as well as the Cheshire Cat (voiced by Stephen Fry). Underland is bleak and desolate due to a "Narnia"-like takeover by the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter), who takes value in large facial features. The Red Queen is determined to chop off Alice's head to prevent her from killing the Jabberwocky and ending her reign of terror.

The special effects for which Tim Burton is known play a backseat role to the dazzling costumes and engaging story line that make "Alice" a must-see film.
– *Laura Zweig*

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

COVENTRY 13: No longer costs $1.00 and 50-cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $3.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie. It's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

BROOKLYN'S FINEST Rated R
Redbox

"Brooklyn's Finest" attempts to be the best cop movie of all time but does not live up to the expectations set for it.

The movie follows three cops involved in large-scale drug operations. Veteran cop Eddie Dugan (Richard Gere) leads the trio as the most experienced cop, on the verge of retirement. Sal Procida (Ethan Hawke) is the second cop, worried about his involvement in the drug operation because it jeopardizes his family and himself. The third cop, Clarence Butler (Don Cheadle), undercover for years, has gained knowledge of many infamous drug dealers and is directly responsible for frequent arrests. His life turns a corner as he realizes that he is better friends with some of the drug dealers than many of the cops in the city.

Like other cop movies, "Brooklyn's Finest" follows not-so-good cops at different stages of their careers. The movie is painfully slow and uneventful with a lack of originality, not bringing with it the glory of Fuqua's last film, "Training Day." – *Nathan Berning*

THE CRAZIES Rated R
Redbox

Thrilling and suspenseful are two words that describe the new hit movie "The Crazies," and those seeking a zombie adventure in a movie theatre are in the right place. As opposed to "Avatar," "The Crazies" was thankfully not developed into a 3-D film.

Breck Eisner's "The Crazies" is a remake of the 1973 George Romero movie. Rhada Mitchell stars as Dr. Judy Dutton, the town doctor, and Timothy Olyphant as the town's sheriff, David Dutton. The film depicts the duo's fight through the town in an attempt to escape from the spreading disease which makes people crazy. They must also outsmart the military, striving to cover up the incident by killing all those who could possibly be infected.

At first, the film appears to be the standard "don't go in the door" type, but eventually shows that the writers intended the movie to have a greater meaning than what is originally proposed in the opening minutes. Although the plot seemed a bit shallow at times, "The Crazies" is a must-see for anyone who enjoys zombie horror films.
– *Joe Hanauer*

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
The health care reform bill is not just poised to affect medical professionals but also the parents and students they serve. 2A

LIFE
Middle-born children recall their tormented experiences as the proverbial black sheep of their respective families. 4A

FEATURE
All-too-common myths regarding Scantron trickery are examined through the eyes of Feature Editor Molly Zweig. 8A

OPINION
A political showdown in Texas concerning state textbook standards is only a microcosm for conservative misinformation. 3A

SPORTS
Tourney darlings Bromance delivered a thrashing to Shalom in the intramural basketball championship at the Jorgensen YMCA. 7A

ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net.

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Yager warns faculty of potentially 'painful' budget cuts

District school board relying on retirement incentives to ease sting of $1.1 million slash

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Though it doesn't take an economist to realize that everyone is cutting back because of the economy, the state of Indiana has recently cut $1.7 million in funding from SACS for the next school year. As a result, the school board is hoping to cut at least $1.1 million from its budget.

The proposed plan to make the cuts is divided into two tiers: tier one, which are cuts more likely to be implemented, and tier two, which the administration hopes they will not have to implement.

As part of the tier one cuts, the administration is offering a retirement incentive program that will offer $25,000 to senior teachers who are near retirement age. These retirements will allow the district to rehire younger teachers, who will be paid less.

The stipulations for the retirement incentive package are strict. At least 18 teachers must hand in letters of resignation by April 14 for any of the teachers to receive the retirement incentive. So far, it is unclear whether the district will receive this number. However, the district will not offer the retirement incentive to more than 30 retirees.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

From left to right: Science department faculty members Holly Tarr, Jeff Stumpf, Rob Dillman and Jonathan Seibert record notes as SACS Superintendent Steve Yager addresses Homestead staff March 23. Yager is hoping to trim $1.1 million from the district budget to balance out state-ordered cuts exceeding $1.5 million.

If the district does not succeed in finding 18 people to retire, the retirement incentive plan will not take effect, and the district will have to make drastic cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Some question why there must be 18 teachers to retire for the plan to be

▸▸SEE 'YAGER TALK,' PAGE 2A

COLD CUTS

The following are projected 2010 budget cuts by district:

$26 MILLION
INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

$15 MILLION
FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

$8.2 MILLION
SOUTH BEND SCHOOL CORPORATION

$6.9 MILLION
GARY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SOURCE: WWW.HERALDTIMESONLINE.COM

STATE CRED

In 2011, AP scores of 3 or higher will be eligible for credit at public colleges such as...

- Indiana University
- Ball State University
- Purdue University
- Indiana State University

PHOTO WWW.FLICKR.COM

THREES AND THANK YOU

State colleges to allow passing AP scores under bill

By Patrick Svitek
Editor-in-Chief • psvitek@thespartana.net

A bill passed late last month by the Indiana General Assembly is poised to expand state universities' Advanced Placement (AP) credit policies, but education leaders remain divided over the legislation's ability to catalyze material change in long-term course enrollment.

House Bill 1135, green-lighted March 18 with the bipartisan sponsorship of two state representatives and two state senators, will entitle students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams to college credit at public colleges and universities in the Hoosier State. One of the bill's signees, State Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, asserted that the newly established incentive "will definitely help students in the long run" when it goes into effect one year from now.

"They now have a dependable outcome on what they can do with that AP credit when they get to these state universities," he added.

> "Students are still fearful of AP exams. They don't want to do the work. That [attitude] will always be there."
>
> **AMY HAMILTON**
> *Guidance Counselor*

Indiana Department of Education press secretary Stephanie Sample touted the statute as a solid stride toward achieving State Superintendent Tony Bennett's forward-thinking ambitions, despite widespread budget crunches at Hoosier colleges strained by Governor Mitch Daniels' $150 million higher education slash. Bennett is currently aiming to have a quarter of all Indiana high school graduates pass an AP exam – the equivalent of receiving a 3-score or greater – by the end of the 2013 testing session.

"The AP legislation increases opportunities for students," Sample said. "In this economy, everyone has to have skin in the game and cut back – but this should not be at the expense of student learning."

Guidance counselor Amy Hamilton, who assumed control of Homestead's AP program in 2005, commended the bill as the "right way" to encourage

▸▸SEE 'HB 1135,' PAGE 2A

HOW HEALTH HITS HOME

a guide for students

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The first major reform to the American health care system since the creation of Medicare in 1965 was passed by Congress on March 25, ending Washington's 14-month debate over health care reform. The Affordable Health Care for America Bill was confirmed by a 220 to 207 vote in the House of Representatives.

The bill will have a nationwide effect, expanding coverage to 32 million Americans who currently are uninsured. The bill will have an especially strong impact in Allen County, where health care is one of the most important industries and one of the largest employers.

Lutheran Health Network is the second largest employer in Allen County with 3,756 employees, and Parkview Health Systems is the third largest with 3,191 employees.

While the bill no longer includes a public option or a health insurance co-op, there are still enough measures in the bill to impact the health care landscape in Allen County, which concerns students who have parents employed in the health care industry.

Students have expressed their views on the health care plan in various ways, even joining Facebook groups such as "Rebellion Against Obama's Healthcare Bill."

The passage of the bill has sparked controversy, as most Americans are unsure exactly how the reform will affect them. While the exact effects of the bill are currently unknown, there will be definite changes that will affect the different parts of the health care system in Allen County.

BUSINESS OWNERS

While the professions most obviously affected by the bill are in the health care industry, people with other types of jobs will also be affected. Small business owners are specifically impacted by the new legislation.

▸▸SEE 'SMALL BUSINESS,' PAGE 2A

DOCTORS

As the health care industry changes, doctors will feel the bill's impact. While most of the reforms in the bill are targeted at insurance companies, doctors will be affected because their income is tied to the amount insurance companies will

▸▸SEE 'DOCTORS,' PAGE 2A

PHARMACISTS

Pharmacists are another group of health care workers that will be impacted by the new legislation. Similar to doctors, pharmacists' incomes are related to health insurance.

"I'm personally going to wait

▸▸SEE 'PHARMACISTS,' PAGE 2A

HEALTH INSURERS

In addition to the two major hospitals, health insurance companies are also present on the list of the top employers in Allen County. Aetna US Healthcare employs 315 people, and Physicians' Health Plan of Northern Indiana is based in

▸▸SEE 'HEALTH INSURERS,' PAGE 2A

Buchanan earns national kudos for portfolio

Student artist joins 125 other nationwide finalists in Scholastics competition

By Priya Parikh
Writer staff@thespartana.net

The Scholastics Art and Writing Award competition awarded Michael Buchanan (12) two National Silver Medals for his artwork on March 7. Buchanan received a medal for his entire art portfolio and a medal for his portrait of Homestead English teacher Scott Hill. Out of 150,000 entries to the national competition, only 125 silver medals were awarded nationwide.

Buchanan is only the second Homestead student to win a Scholastic award, and his teachers and close peers were overjoyed when they learned of his two medals. An announcement was made during the March 12 pep rally to congratulate Buchanan.

"When I heard the news from Mrs. Jones, I was ecstatic," Buchanan said. "This award is like the Olympics of high school art. There couldn't have been a more rewarding achievement. I did really well at the regional competition, earning three individual

▸▸SEE 'BUCHANAN,' PAGE 2A

▸▸150,000
students from across the country submitted their work to the Scholastics Art and Writing Awards contest.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Michael Buchanan (12) focuses on sketching during his fourth-period painting class. His art portfolio submitted to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, which contains a portrait of Homestead English teacher Scott Hill, received a National Silver Medal March 7.

The Brainy Bunch

This year, the top five students of the senior class of 2010 are a group of girls (yes, they are all girls) that represent a diverse cross-section of college-bound teens. With three band members, three publications students, club presidents, NHS board members, political activists, musicians, a multiple-sport varsity athlete and a varsity dance team member, these girls have fully committed themselves to everything Homestead has to offer. As a result, these girls have a whole world of opportunity ahead of them. While they've all submitted applications to highly selective colleges, most of them have seriously considered the economical choice of Indiana University. Their dreams range from being a doctor, an architect and news correspondent to everything in between. At the rate these girls are going, they just might get there. – *Laura Zeng*

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PHOTOS BY BEN MARSELL

▸ Ranked First: Kelly Miller

Spartana: How much time do you put into your academics?

Miller: I really don't put a huge amount of time into academics. Unless I have big projects of papers due, I spend an hour or less on homework each night.

Spartana: What is your best memory of Homestead?

Miller: My best memory of Homestead has been working on the yearbook with some of my best friends.

Spartana: What is your worst memory of Homestead?

Miller: My worst memory of Homestead was definitely the beginning of senior year. I was applying to colleges and adjusting to having four AP classes, and it was really stressful.

Spartana: What are your

▸▸SEE 'TOP FIVE,' PAGE 2A

BRIEFS

PROJECT HAITI T-SHIRTS
Today is the last possible day to order Project Haiti T-shirts during lunch periods. The shirts feature original designs by Albert Jennings (12) and Adam Gayer (10) and are printed on white and black American Apparel T-shirts.

TO OUR READERS
Due to printing problems at our South Holland, Ill.-based press, Issue 12 of the Spartana was delayed from its original distribution date of Friday, April 1. The Spartana staff regrets any factual errors that may have occurred due to this last-minute publication date change and encourages readers to notify us of such mistakes via e-mail.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS
Today is the first deadline to submit the required volunteer hours for official membership in National Honors Society. Community service records should be reported to board member Katie Jensen (12). Members must complete five hours of volunteer working consisting of at least one hour of library tutoring.

▸▸TOP FIVE CONTINUED FROM 1A

plans after high school?
Miller: After high school, I plan to major in biology at either IU or Vanderbilt, and then I hope to go to medical school and specialize in genetics.
Spartana: If you could do anything over in high school, what would it be?
Miller: If I could do anything over, I would have joined yearbook earlier. It's been really fun to work with my friends and be involved in a student publication.
Spartana: If you could thank one person who's helped or inspired you, who would it be?
Miller: I definitely have to thank my parents. They've always been really supportive and encouraging without putting too much pressure on me.

▸ **Ranked Second: Sarah Kusisto**

Spartana: How much time do you put into your academics?
Kusisto: I don't know. It really varies.
Spartana: What is your best memory of Homestead?
Marching band state performance.
Spartana: What is your worst memory of Homestead?
Kusisto: I pretty much had all good memories. I liked it here.
Spartana: What are your plans after high school?
Kusisto: I'm going to go to IU, and I have an exploratory major, so I'll be studying creative writing, math, and psychology. I'm also considering pre-law.
Spartana: If you could do anything over in high school, what would it be?
Kusisto: I would have joined track before senior year.
Spartana: If you could thank one person who's helped or inspired you, who would it be?
Kusisto: I have two people. Ms. McCombs helped me with a lot of college applications and stuff. She's a great mentor. Also, Mr. Hill, because he showed me writing could be fun and witty.

▸ **Ranked Third: Sydney Brown**

Spartana: How much time do you put into your academics?
Brown: It really depends. Some nights it's only half an hour or none at all, and other nights I'll be up until 3 a.m. Teachers all seem to pile it on at the same time.
Spartana: What is your best memory of Homestead?
Brown: I have so many good memories, but I'll never forget a single thing about dance team this year. VP Forever.
Spartana: What is your worst memory of Homestead?
Brown: Trying to sit through a whole bunch of lectures after two hours of sleep did not make for a pleasant day.
Spartana: What are your plans after high school?
Brown: I'm still waiting to hear back from a few colleges and working out details with money, but I'm looking to study architecture out of state.
Spartana: If you could do anything over in high school, what would it be?
Brown: Honestly, I'd probably try to get involved more than I already was. I wish I would have joined Spanish Club or done tennis. I feel like I could have fit it in.
Spartana: If you could thank one person who's helped or inspire you, who would it be?
Brown: My parents have always found a way to motivate me to want to do my best without having to force me to. I had the work ethic because they taught me to want to do well for myself, and I'm so thankful that they did that for me.

▸ **Ranked Fourth: Celia Grundman**

Spartana: How much time do you put into your academics?
Grundman: As little as possible. I don't procrastinate, I perendinate.
Spartana: What is your best memory of Homestead?
Grundman: My sophomore year ISSMA State Marching Band competition performance.
Spartana: What is your worst memory of Homestead?
Grundman: I have a condition that causes severe joint pain, which sometimes interfered with my marching technique. This was frustrating.
Spartana: What are your plans after high school?
Grundman: I will be attending Indiana University for Journalism and Political Science.
Spartana: If you could do anything over in high school, what will it be?
Grundman: I should have stayed in Anonymous Blue.
Spartana: If you could thank one person who's helped or inspired you, who would it be?
Grundman: Richard Lugar. He's the most upstanding public servant I've ever observed. Also, Jesus, because he was a darn good socialist. Amen.

▸ **Ranked Fifth: Sonya Joseph**

Spartana: How much time do you put into your academics?
Joseph: Not much anymore. It's the fourth quarter of senior year. But I used to have one to two hours of homework a night.
Spartana: What is your best memory of Homestead?
Joseph: Going to Arizona with the marching band.
Spartana: What is your worst memory of Homestead?
Joseph: My worst memory is driving to school for the first time, trying to be cool by swinging really fast into a parking spot and scraping my friend's car. I didn't tell her for a year.
Spartana: What are your plans after high school?
Joseph: I'm planning on going to IU and majoring in Anthropology and pre-med: I want to work as a doctor in a foreign country, and my dream is to be a health correspondent for CNN.
Spartana: If you could do anything over in high school, what would it be?
Joseph: Online gym. No one told me that was an option.
Spartana: If you could thank one person who's helped or inspired you, who would it be?
Joseph: I would thank my mom, because even though the way she always pushes me to be better can really get on my nerves, she has always believed in me, and I love her.

▸▸BUCHANAN CONTINUED FROM 1A

COURTESY PHOTO

Buchanan's portrait of English teacher Scott Hill, formally titled "Quintessence," earned him a Scholastic National Silver Medal.

Gold Keys, one individual Silver Key, and a portfolio Gold Key. But even after all of that, it still hardly even crossed my mind that I would win a national award, let alone two of them."

Because the magnitude of his award is so rare, Buchanan's award has energized the Homestead art community.

"I was in disbelief when he got the medal. I had to restrain my emotions just a little bit because I got the phone call in the middle of another class," art teacher Sarah Jones said. "I ran out of my room and told Mrs. Hussar and I was just ecstatic because this is the first time that I have ever submitted a portfolio to Scholastics as a teacher, and it won a medal."

Buchanan's portrait of English teacher Hill, which won an individual silver medal, has excited the drawing's muse, too.

"I guess the obvious answer [to how I feel] is pride," Hill said. "I was just happy that the judges got it right. If anybody deserved to win, it was Michael and his painting."

In addition to being nationally recognized, another benefit for Buchanan is that his art will be displayed in Carnegie Hall. Buchanan and Jones will attend a formal award ceremony on June 9 at Carnegie Hall in New York City. At that time, professional artists will conduct workshops at various venues, where both students and teachers will be able to participate.

Both Jones and Buchanan are looking forward to traveling to New York City for the awards ceremony.

"I'm really looking forward to going to Carnegie Hall," Jones said. "One thing that has helped him through these past four years is that he's very receptive to criticism and feedback on his work. He's a friend to everyone, and he's just a really great kid."

Buchanan claims that he has always loved art, but it was not until recently that he decided to devote his life to the craft.

"My infatuation for art was instilled in me at a young age by my grandpa, who was an artist," Buchanan said. "I've always liked to draw, but I didn't realize it was my true 'passion' until fairly recently."

Buchanan's high achievement will aid him in his endeavors and his enrollment at Indiana University, where he plans to pursue an art degree.

"I'm going to be really sad when he leaves this year, but he's on to bigger and better things," Jones said.

▸▸YAGER TALK CONTINUED FROM 1A

implemented.

"The last six years, we've had an average of eight retirements across the district per year," district business manager Jim Coplen said. "There are no real savings unless you get those who are not only retiring this year, but the following years."

The district will only offer the retirement incentive package to 30 teachers so that not all of the district's rainy day money is spent at once, as the district still anticipates continual cuts from the state.

Retirement is not a decision that teachers can make lightly, however. With an unstable economy, retiring early is often not an option for many teachers who rely completely on their teaching salaries and on the health insurance the job provides. A $25,000 incentive will not come near the amount that teachers could earn if they worked for another few years.

Although some teachers worry that the retirement incentive will not cover insurance for them, the administration feels that the $25,000 is very competitive in this area of the state, and they are not open to negotiations.

"That number is set in stone," superintendant Dr. Steve Yager said to the staff at a meeting on March 23.

For those that are ready to retire, the package is coming at an opportune time.

"Because I am ready to retire, the retirement incentive package sweetens the pot and makes my decision easier," teacher Gregory Fryzel said.

The retirement incentive package is expected to save the district $550,000, which is half of the total amount the district is hoping to save.

The budget cuts need to be implemented quickly. This year, SACS was under-funded by three teachers, and in 2011 that number will jump to 11 teachers. This year, per student funding was around $4,735, which is $35 less per student than it was ten years ago.

Though proposed lists of the cuts to be made to the budget will reach the school board soon, nothing in the tier one cuts or the tier two cuts has been approved by the school board. However, if the school board approves all cuts from tier one, the district will save an estimated $1,414,400.

Items included in the proposed list of tier one cuts include restructuring administrative positions, eliminating personal appliances in classrooms, moving to a paperless payroll, placing strict limits on Anthis Career Center slots and restructuring the pool program to make it more efficient.

However, if the 18-person minimum is not met for the retirement plan, drastic cuts will be made presumably from tier two.

Tier two cuts include reducing teacher positions and contract days, cutting teacher pay, eliminating department supervisors, eliminating middle and high school athletics, closing the pool and removing art, music and physical education teachers from the elementary schools.

"As you can see, tier two is painful," Yager said.

The statewide cuts are challenging for anyone involved in Indiana education, but if the 18 teachers do not partake in the retirement incentive package by April 14, the cuts will become more drastic.

"I regret for SACS that the financial times are difficult," Fryzel said. "However, we are not alone in the struggle."

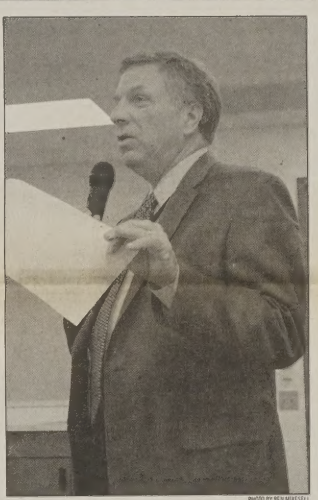

PHOTO BY BETH MIKESELL

SACS Superintendent Steve Yager addresses Homestead faculty members March 23, explaining his plan to divide potential budget cuts into two separate tiers of urgency.

▸▸HB 1135 CONTINUED FROM 1A

AP involvement, but doubted it would drastically balloon enrollment numbers.

"I do think it will give more students the confidence to attempt exams," Hamilton said. "I don't see huge numbers of kids jumping into AP classes."

Hamilton estimates that approximately 400 of the comprehensive course assessments were administered the year she took the reins of Homestead's AP curriculum. In 2009, 769 AP exams were ordered for the two-week May testing cycle and 68 percent of participating students garnered scores of 3 or higher.

Yet she is hesitant to completely attribute the rising trend to spiking enthusiasm among academic challenge-seekers.

"Students are still fearful of AP exams," Hamilton said. "They don't want to do the work. That [attitude] will always be there."

As of Wednesday, admissions representatives at the state's flagship institutions declined to comment on the freshly inked directive. A senior member of the admissions office at Indiana University Bloomington admitted that the selection committee "has not been following the bill very closely," while similarly ranked counselors at Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne refused to speak until they have viewed the legislative language in full context.

In the meantime, the approved measure is gradually capturing the attention of students such as Jaya Sharma (12), whose second-semester senior schedule boasts four AP courses.

"If more people can get credit for a [score of] 3, I think more people would take the exams," Sharma said. "I know I would take more AP classes."

In addition to broadening AP credit eligibility at Indiana public institutions of higher learning, House Bill 1135 will enable high school students to enroll in online AP courses provided by Florida Virtual School. The guided-study class options will cost $400 per semester when activated in the fall.

▸ **Business Owners (continued)**

The mandate for businesses to provide insurance for their employees will not be imposed on small businesses and will only be required for companies with more than 50 employees. However, the government will help small businesses buy insurance by providing tax cuts and tax credits.

"We're hoping the bill will help us out with some of the cost of health care, which is currently very expensive," Lisa Gayer, who runs Smartguys Advertising & Design with her husband Kelley Gayer, said. Gayer is the mother of Adam Gayer (10).

Small businesses are defined in the bill as companies with less than 50 employees.

"I don't really see too many negatives of the bill for us," Gayer said.

Health insurance plans for small businesses are currently a big issue, as 29 percent of employees at businesses with 25 employees or less are uninsured, according to the Department of Labor.

"I think the bill should give us more opportunities for higher quality health care," Gayer said.

▸ **Doctors (continued)**

pay for procedures.

"I believe that the number of patients I see will go up, but the reimbursement I receive for seeing patients will go down," Dr. Greg Veerkamp, pediatrician and father of Daniel Veerkamp (10), said.

The bill promises to stop insurance companies from denying care to those with pre-existing conditions, and it requires companies to keep covering individuals once they get sick. While this is beneficial for patients, it means a loss of money for the insurance companies that will be compensated with less reimbursement or higher fees for customers.

"In addition to the lower reimbursement, I anticipate paying more for my current insurance and paying more taxes," Veerkamp said.

▸ **Pharmacists (continued)**

to see the effects of health care reform, but I think it will be a positive thing for me," Ellie Emamian, pharmacist and mother of Sohail (12) and Sahand (10) Emamian, said.

Every year, over $170 billion is spent on unnecessary medication, according to the American Pharmacists' Association. By cutting this cost, health care reform can save the system money.

"I think it initially will drive the price of health care up, but eventually it will even out to be fair for everyone," Emamian said.

New regulations on preexisting conditions could mean that insurance companies will pay for more medication for patients.

"Even though there's a lot of controversy, I think it's too soon to tell how it will affect the health care industry," Emamian said.

▸ **Health Insurers (continued)**

Fort Wayne.

While the individual mandate requiring everyone to purchase health insurance by 2014 should bring more customers to insurance companies, other provisions in the bill could negatively impact the companies' income.

> "Even though there's a lot of controversy, I think it's too soon to tell how it will affect the health care industry."
>
> **ELLIE EMAMIAN**
> *Pharmacist*

Starting immediately, insurance companies will be required to allow children to stay on their parent's plan until age 26. Insurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate based on preexisting conditions. Six months after the bill is enacted, insurance companies will not be able to deny care to children based on preexisting conditions, and by 2014, the same regulations will apply to everyone.

In addition to these requirements, potential customers might be discouraged from purchasing more expensive health care plans due to the new excise tax, which would place a 40 percent tax on insurance plans worth over $27,500 a year.

▸ **Parents**

The health care reform bill will also affect most American citizens by establishing the "toughest patient protections in history," according to the Organizing for America website. There are multiple reforms in the health care bill specifically targeted at parents.

"I like the option of having my child be able to stay on my plan longer, even though I hope that won't be necessary," Ellen Waite, Latin teacher and parent, said.

Under the new law, children will be allowed to stay on their parents' health care plan until they are 26, as opposed to the previous age of 22.

"What I'm really concerned about is paying more for fewer benefits," Waite said.

Once parents reach retirement age, another provision in the bill will reduce health insurance premiums for citizens 65 and older.

"There are some positive parts to the bill, but I'm concerned about larger corporations dropping their current plans in favor of less expensive plans once the bill passes," Waite said.

▸ **Students**

Some of the most significant changes to the current health care system will involve students and young people.

"Personally, the bill shouldn't have a negative effect on me as my parents have health insurance already," Sahand Emamian (10) said.

In addition to the reform allowing children to stay on their parent's plan longer, the bill immediately prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against children based on preexisting conditions.

"I like the fact that the bill doesn't discriminate about preexisting conditions," Emamian said.

Additionally, the bill will decrease the cost of health care by over $1 trillion over a 20-year period. This should make health care better for future generations.

"I dislike the high cost of the bill, because health insurance will probably go up at first before it levels out," Emamian said.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

NSPA The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

OPINION

the GLIMPSE

Jay Ricker, president of Anderson, Ind.-based Ricker Oil, apologizes on behalf of his company after an employee at a Fort Wayne station posted a sign reading, "For sanitary reasons, there are no Burmese people allowed." In the one-minute clip, Ricker assures viewers that "appropriate disciplinary action" is being considered against the workers in question and that Ricker's welcomes "all patrons to its facilities," regardless of ethnic or racial background.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

the facebook crawl

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "Which bibulous upperclassman may possibly not return from Spring Break alive?"

Courtney Blosser ▸ "I shouldn't say. Those people already don't like me lol."
Hana Svetlovics ▸ "Define 'bibulous.'"
Brian Landrigan ▸ "What is 'bibulous'?"
Albert Jennings ▸ "Besides the obvious choices?"
Alissa Baker ▸ "Hopefully we all make it back alive. That would be awful."
Allie Stanley ▸ "What's 'bibulous'?"
Kelly Miller ▸ "Are you even allowed to call high school kids 'bibulous'?"
Arjun Achary ▸ "They'll all survive. They always do."
Sean Kim ▸ "Uh. I dunno. You, I guess."
Jenny Spatt ▸ "That's not a very nice question."
Molly Quinn ▸ "Why would I give a specific name? Assuming this is for Spartana, which everyone will see."
Rafal Swiatkowski ▸ "Stop. That can't be the question."

1st'[IS THE]$hurst

Elmhurst closing only microcosm for far-reaching effects of drastic state cuts

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

As many students and teachers already suffer, education in Indiana is on a rough road – and it is only growing worse. Fort Wayne Community Schools are most likely to be the next victim of Governor Mitch Daniels' extreme budget cuts, along with lack of funding from the Race to the Top competition.

▸▸300,000,000
dollars is the amount of K-12 public education funds Governor Mitch Daniels is aiming to cut in 2010. Of that statewide total, $15 million needs to be trimmed by Fort Wayne Community Schools.

The federal government's competition for school funding is flawed to begin with, but the program is not to blame for Elmhurst's closing – and neither is FWCS Superintendent Wendy Robinson, though many Elmhurst students and parents would disagree. Unfortunately, FWCS has no choice but to pull itself out of debt – and with $15 million to make up for, they must and will do whatever it takes. As the district's smallest high school, Elmhurst is the most cost-efficient, convenient school to shut down. Its small enrollment allows students to be distributed to the district's other schools most easily. Nevertheless, because Elmhurst's course offerings are limited, closing it would not be a tremendous loss to the district. Despite the failure of the district's other schools, such as North Side, South Side, and Wayne, closing any of them would save the least in the long run. Although North Side also has a relatively small enrollment, its $50 million renovation project in 2005 saves it from closing. Similarly, Wayne is being renovated for its New Tech program.

But who is responsible? Indiana state government itself – that is, Governor Mitch Daniels and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett. Despite the Race to the Top program's flawed nature, these two did little to increase Indiana's chances of receiving funding. Since Daniels' entrance into office, he demonstrated little desire to improve Hoosier education. Even when applying for "Race to the Top," he did not make education a priority, cutting $300 million in K-12 education. This cut was made due to decreasing tax revenues, but with disregard for the future generation's education.

Bennett has contributed, as well. By boldly asking the federal government for $500 million – $250 million more than it was willing to pay – Indiana's extra funding chances were decreased even more. On another note, Bennett says that even without Race to the Top funding, Indiana's Fast Forward reform plan will succeed; however, it sounds about as effective as Race to the Top sounds necessary.

Daniels' $300 million cut to education is a major reason for Elmhurst's closing, leaving FWCS with a $9 million cut to add to its already $6 million deficit. With a total of $15 million to make up for, FWCS will also close Pleasant Center Elementary School. In addition to these two closings, an estimated eighty or more teachers will be laid off. All of these factors – increased class sizes due to transferred Elmhurst students, as well as a smaller faculty to teach these larger classes – points toward a depressing outlook for next school year.

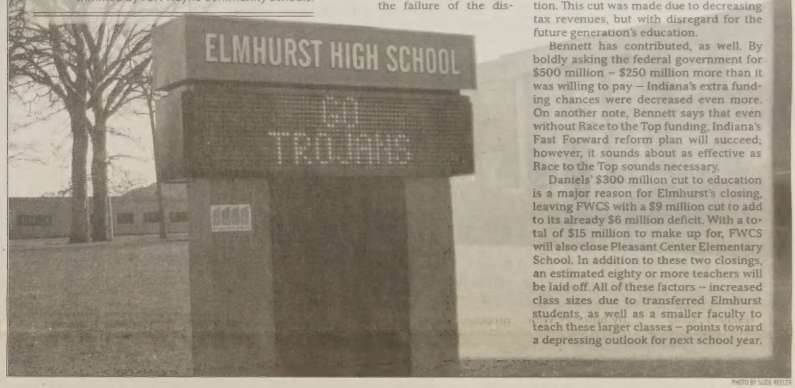


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Prejudiced sign reveals increasing resentment toward Burmese influx

Myanmar natives greeted with same incivility that motivated emigration

By Kirsten Overdahl
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

Hanging in the window of a downtown Fort Wayne laundromat, a small white sign read, "For Sanitary Purposes, There Are No Burmese People Allowed." The sign was an attempt to keep a clean environment for patrons of Ricker's City Laundry at Calhoun Street and Rudisill Boulevard, but for the refugees living in Fort Wayne and for the employees and volunteers of the Burmese Advocacy Center just down the block, the sign was a snatch at the very civil rights that the Burmese refugees had come to Fort Wayne to seek.

> "[The Burmese practice of chewing on betel nuts and spitting the juice from the nuts] is inarguably less than sanitary, but a clash of culture customs is not an excuse to unfairly curtail civil rights without any prefacing warning to the groups whose rights are in question."
>
> **KIRSTEN OVERDAHL**
> *Copy Editor*

Neither the health department nor the laundry company itself was responsible for placing the sign at the front of the store, as the sign was reportedly placed there by a self-motivated employee. The sign may have been a response to the Burmese practice of chewing betel nuts and spitting the juice from the nuts. The practice is inarguably less than sanitary, but a clash of culture customs is not an excuse to unfairly curtail civil rights without any prefacing warning to the group whose rights are in question.

The laundry company issued an Internet-wide apology for the sign and announced that it is "exploring appropriate discipline" for the employee responsible for the sign's placement. However, although discipline is necessary to do the conflict justice and establish the unacceptable nature of the act, the focus of neither the company nor Fort Wayne, both its American residents and its Burmese residents, should be on punishment or vengeance. More than a fear of unsanitary premises, the sign's placement reflects two troubling concerns.

First, the sign seems to have been largely ignored until several days after it was removed by other Ricker's employees. The lack of attention may, on one hand, have saved the Burmese population from further embarrassment in an already awkward situation. On the other hand, and more importantly, it is a detriment not only to the Burmese of Fort Wayne but to all Fort Wayne residents if a fellow resident witnesses such a sign and says nothing. To ignore the problem may keep conflict at bay, but all citizens are responsible for the protection of civil rights. It is the responsibility of every citizen to ensure that everyone's rights, not just those of the convenient and temporarily accepted majority, are righteously upheld.

▸▸6,000
Burmese immigrants now live in Fort Wayne, the highest concentration of the Myanmar natives in the United States, according to News-Sentinel columnist Kevin Leininger.

Second, the sign's content is a clear indicator of the lack of understanding still prevalent between two cultures. Rather than indirectly persecute a culture by curtailing civil rights, efforts should be made to educate both cultures on unfamiliar practices. How much easier and more just it is to create a set of ground rules and understanding than to take away rights in fear of what may happen? Ricker's has the right to establish a "no chewing" rule and to escort out anyone who does not abide by the rule, but they do not have a right to ban all members of an ethnicity because of what might or might not happen.

Fear is the key to alienation and injustice, but education and fair play are the keys to a peaceful coexistence and a rejuvenation of a persecuted culture. The Burmese have chosen Fort Wayne as a refuge, and to let that truth become no more than a devastating irony would be to shame and mock not the Burmese but the rights which Fort Wayne residents too often take for granted.

COUNSEL FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION

Councilmen exercise 'pure bigotry' in killing gender bill

By Celia Grundman
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

It was simply shocking – the Republican members of the Fort Wayne City Council prevented a gender discrimination bill from even being brought to the table for discussion. Don Schmidt, a former councilman, can only remember three times that a bill's introduction was ever ruled against in his 37 years of service.

So why the split along party lines? The bill's undoing was due to protections for gender identity – and yes, that means lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and those who are transgendered. Said Republican Councilman Tom Smith, "I don't believe it is a serious problem in our community." Even if this were true, why not protect the minority?

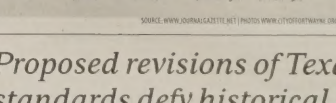
The answer is tacit homophobia. The bill, authored by Councilwoman Karen Goldner, would have made both gender identity and sexual orientation as protected as race and religion. As such, city investigation would have been allowed for those types of discrimination claims. While some Republicans are more levelheaded – former Councilman John Crawford said that, while he and Goldner "disagree on almost everything," he was disappointed "that we can't have a civil discussion on it"–all five current Republican council members unabashedly refused to merely debate the bill.

Said Goldner: "The lack of willingness to have that discussion literally takes my breath away and disappoints me deeply." But, after observing Republican discrimination (against an anti-discrimination bill), she finds that "The need for this ordinance is clearer to me than it was before." True, there is some protection already in place for sexual orientation (though not enough), yet there is an apparent void in the case of gender identity.

The less controversial aspects of the bill, such as preventing the use of genetic material for discrimination in businesses, were not a likely cause of the problems. No, the conflict came from the call for justice, which many opponents declared to be supporting "special rights" rather than "human rights." Previous Fort Wayne resident Vivian M. Benge, the president of Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance and so many other transgender individuals could not disagree more. When individuals discuss their transgender identities, they are usually met with open and shameless hostility and discrimination. It is not a simple matter of giving people "special rights" to dress however they like to work, as bill opponent Christine Shock ignorantly claimed.

Republican reservations are not due to a negligible issue – this is but pretense, and silent enmity was the true impetus – for Republican City Council members displayed pure bigotry in their vote. At the very least, Goldner's commendable efforts (and city council's rejection of said efforts) have, in their own right, brought the issue to the tables of Fort Wayne residents.

CITY COUNCIL GOP NAYDAY



Tom Smith (R-1st) | Mitch Harper (R-4th) | Tom Didier (R-3rd) | Liz Brown (R-At Large) | Marty Bender (R-At Large)

SOURCE: WWW.JOURNALGAZETTE.NET | PHOTOS WWW.CITYOFFORTWAYNE.ORG

Proposed revisions of Texas education standards defy historical cornerstones

"1984" is nigh – just as in Orwell's dystopian novel, history is being rewritten. Say farewell to Thomas Jefferson – for separating church from state, he's been separated from history! Say hello to theologian John Calvin, his replacement.

On March 12 the godly hand of the Texas Board of Education smote those unruly history books (and that unruly Deist!) when it injected Texas textbooks with a healthy dose of conservatism after bludgeoning out the unsavory sections. With the foundations thoroughly hacked at, American history now stumbles about on bloody stumps.

Alas – but at least it'll only affect the four million Texan students, right? Not so. As one of the largest textbook purchasers, Texas' standards are often meted out to other states who must buy the same books. Fort Wayne Community Schools are worried, but we do have some luck; according to local school board member Steve Corona, improved technology can "in essence customize textbooks" if need be.

Even so, the blatant butchery will affect many students. The tinkering list of the 10 ultra-conservative board members – who are neither experts nor historians – is extravagant. Carefully weeded from history are Latino contributions, despite half of all Texas students being Hispanic. Gone are famous socialists, hip-hop music, sound evolutionary science, the American Revolution's secular nature, separation of Church and State, and so much more. These have been replaced with the glorification of Ronald Reagan, McCarthyism, and Christianity, all while questioning anything "liberal."

As board member Mary Berlanga (one of the rational ones) said, "They are rewriting history, not only of Texas but of the United States and the world." In effect, the Texas Board of Education sought to blot out "mistakes" instead of allowing children to look objectively – and critically – at history. But America's history cannot be flawless. We must learn from our mistakes and celebrate those who fought them.

Perhaps we can fight this one.

The Ed Board

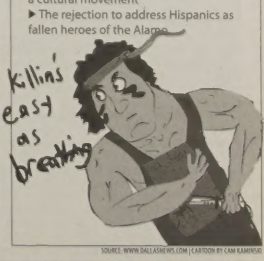
Patrick Svitek • psvitek@thespartana.net

Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

TEXAS TEXTBOOK MASSACRE

The textbook edits approved by the Texas Board of Education include...

- The elimination of references to Enlightenment philosophies
- Expanded coverage of late Republican President Ronald Reagan
- The continued exclusion of Hip-hop as a cultural movement
- The rejection to address Hispanics as fallen heroes of the Alamo



SOURCE: WWW.DALLASNEWS.COM | CARTOON BY CAM KAMINSKI

{THE BOTTOM LINE} *The politically conniving Texas Board of Education is attempting to revise history with dangerous disregard for the founding principles.*

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

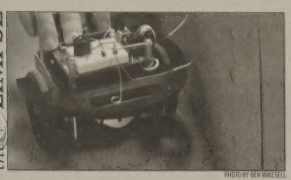


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELLE

On April 17, many young tech-savvy students are joining together in a robot competition. At these events the robots go through many competitions including tactile and non-tactile mazes, line-following, and sumo. The robots are computer programmed, built, and designed by groups of students for many competitions throughout the year. People can vary how technical their robots get depending on how elaborate and advanced their robots become.

[LIFE@THESPARTANA.NET]

Toyota recalls cause minimal worry for owners

Students, faculty show little concern for driving conditions with their vehicles

By Rachel Shinn
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

For many decades, the car has been the most common form of transportation across America. But what happens when a car becomes unsafe to drive?

In early February, Toyota announced that they would conduct a voluntary recall of approximately 133,000 Prius vehicles and 14,500 Lexus vehicles to update software in the vehicles' anti-lock brake system (ABS). Only a month earlier, Toyota recalled 2.3 million vehicles due to accelerator problems. Within the last few months, Toyota has recalled over 4.2 million vehicles total. Quickly causing buyers to lose faith in their cars, Toyota's series of recalls and other damaging events could not only impact Toyota forever, but those who drive Toyotas, too.

The safety ratings have given Toyota a reputation in the U.S. as a builder of dependable, high-quality cars. The company's recall, however, was the sixth-largest ever nationwide.

Keith Potter, an AP Government teacher at Homestead, was one of many car owners who were involved with the recall. The driver of a 2007 Toyota Tundra pick-up truck, Potter never experienced problems.

"I went in before they had the recall just for an oil change and I had them change the gas pedal," Potter said. "They were real good about it."

On the contrary, Laura Stanley (11), the driver of a 2009 Toyota Camry, was not given the same greeting when she had her car serviced.

"They weren't that friendly about it," Stanley said. "It took about two hours for me."

> "I think they just blew it out of proportion. Every car brand has [its] bad points."
>
> **LAURA STANLEY (11)**
> *Toyota Owner*

Only adding to the media frenzy surrounding Toyota was the story of Jim Sikes, a California realtor who reportedly lost control of his Toyota Prius and accelerated up to 94 miles per hour while he claimed to be stepping firmly on the brake. On March 8, emergency dispatchers received a call from Sikes reporting that the accelerator pedal was "stuck" and that the vehicle was out of control and could not be stopped. Intercepting the car, a California Highway Patrol officer instructed Sikes to press firmly on the brakes, apply the emergency brake and turn off the car. The Prius eventually came to a safe stop.

After Toyota engineers completed an investigation of Sikes 2008 Prius only two days later, there were indications that the driver's account of the event was inconsistent with the findings of the preliminary analysis; however, the final report is not yet complete.

"I have seen the video," Sachin Jain (11), owner of a Toyota, said. "But it is not very frightening since I know how to stop my car if it does accelerate."

On March 9, a similar incident was reported involving a high-profile 2005 Prius crash in the suburbs of New York.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) stated that "[i]nformation retrieved from the vehicle's onboard computer systems indicated that there was no application of the brakes." Even with this information available to the public, automobile drivers affected by the recall are filing lawsuits with claims against Toyota of everything from personal injury to lost resale value.

"I feel relatively safe driving," Jain said. "I'm always careful in case something is wrong with [my car]."

Since the time of Toyota's first recall, the NHTSA has reported over 100 incidents, including 17 crashes and five fatalities, which could possibly be linked to improperly placed floor mats and malfunctioning accelerator pedals. With more and more accidents being reported about "failing mechanics" involving Toyota vehicles, it's hard to say if Toyota will ever regain America's trust.

"I think they just blew it out of proportion," Stanley said. "Every car brand has [its] bad points."

TOYOTA TRANSFORMATIONS

From the Toyota Pressroom, a pledge has been made to customers addressing ways the company has changed their automobiles. The pledge note the work they have put into fixing the recall. Some of the information includes:

- 1 million of the recalled cars have been repaired.
- 172,000 employes nationwide have been helping to find solutions to the problems with the gas pedals and floor mats.
- Analysis of the vehicles have been conducted to find all problems with the cars, these reports will be made public when completed.
- They will begin included a new brake override system to insure the immediate stop of engine power.
- To increase response speed to vehicle problems, Toyota is creating jobs to have on-site inspections at dealerships.

PHOTO DRIVELEASTOYOTA.COM

Volunteering offers relationships with other generations

Something highly encouraged throughout high school is volunteering; donating time shows that a student is well-rounded, devoted and ready to go above and beyond what is expected of them. Volunteering gives college and scholarship applications a shine and also offers the student a better chance of being accepted to their school of choice. Of all the people I know who volunteer, it seems that a lot of students are donating their time at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, animal shelters or child care facilities, leaving one very important demographic unnoticed: the elderly.

Several locations in Fort Wayne are seeking volunteers to assist the elderly in our community in several capacities. In general, jobs include entertaining a resident or lending a hand with their daily routine. At retirement communities such as Renaissance Village, residents are simply looking for aid with household chores. The time spent volunteering not only pays off when it comes to college applications, but also has immediate rewards for the volunteer.

10 Items or Less

By Hana Svetlovics
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Elderly people provide the most entertainment in my daily life than any other age group. If given the chance to prove themselves, their sense of humor is impeccable, their story telling is unbeatable and their advice is irreplaceable. They have no problem in saying exactly what is on their mind or telling things exactly how they are. This lack of filter between brain and mouth adds to their sense of humor and makes them even cuter than they already are. Through years of experience, they have gone through many of the things we worry about and can offer advice for peace of mind.

This type of volunteer experience is also a learning opportunity for the student. I have learned so many long-forgotten colloquialisms, it is impossible to keep track of them all. History lessons are not boring when told from someone who experienced the events first-hand. Depending on the number of hours a student puts in, it is even possible to learn a new craft or skill such as knitting or card games. Fort Wayne's Community Center on Main Street offers several programs to seniors in the area that include computer classes, craft classes, and athletic events for leisure. It is possible to volunteer for the Center or to volunteer at other locations that offer activities, and while helping the people attending the classes, it is quite possible to learn something along the way.

> "Through years of experience, they have gone through many of the things we worry about and can offer advice for peace of mind."
>
> **HANA SVETLOVICS**
> *Writer*

Beyond the benefits reaped by the student, volunteering with the elderly really is most beneficial for them. Nursing homes can be lonely, often boring places that could use the vitality and energy of a youth volunteer. While the need for volunteers in child care and poverty relief agencies is vital to maintaining those facilities, I feel that elderly persons are often overlooked by society and deemed useless at their age.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELLE

Kaitlynn Karns (9) feels stress as the third child in a family of four, with living up to sister (left) Heidi (10), and picking on her sixth grade brother Austin.

[stuck in the middle]

Sibling order carries importance for middle children

By Laura Zweig
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Feelings of being neglected and unappreciated. A constant comparison to older siblings. A need to rebel. These are all symptoms of the ever-present Middle Child Syndrome.

"There have been books written and studies [done] about ordinal position, or birth order," Jim Schmidt, sociology teacher, said. "The middle child is often called the squeezed child."

In a typical family, the middle child feels unimportant in relationship to their siblings, according to Schmidt.

Darby Cook (9), the middle child of three, can relate.

"Whatever accomplishments you make, chances are your sibling did it first, so it's not that big of a deal," Cook said. "It's almost unmemorable what you do."

Kaitlynn Karns (9), who is the third child of four, shares this sentiment.

"The worst part is trying to live up to my older siblings," Karns said.

Every family has their roles: the oldest child who gets all of the parents' attention, the youngest child who is continually doted upon and then the middle child. The middle child receives none of the perks and none of the attention.

"In a typical family of three, the middle or second child born is the most different from the oldest," Schimidt said.

Because the parents start comparing the child to the oldest immediately at birth, the middle child responds and tries to develop his or her own personality.

"The middle child often becomes the black sheep of the family, isolated or secretive," Schmidt said. "Ironically, the middle child is [often] the most social or popular."

Cook hates being compared to her older sister.

"When my sister does well on a test, it's rewarded. But when I get an A on a test, it's not a big deal," Cook said. "My grades are overlooked."

Karns feels a little differently.

"My accomplishments are noted for the most part. But my parents don't understand [my successes] in lacrosse as well as [my brother's] football [accomplishments]," Karns said.

While middle children often feel slighted, parents do not realize they are not treating their children equally.

"It's not a conscious thing. Out of necessity, their time is limited," Schmidt said.

Still, most parents make an effort to share excitement the second time around a milestone.

"My parents treat us all equally," Cook said, "but on experiences, like the first year in high school, my sister's was more important because it was the first time our family went through it."

However, middle child syndrome is not always present. Just because one is born in a certain position in the family does not mean they are guaranteed to have the personality traits associated with their position. Middle child syndrome can vary based on family size, ages between siblings, gender, etc.

Albeit it is not always bad, Cook struggles to see the benefits of being a middle child.

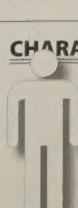
"I guess there's less emphasis on new experiences, which can be good," Cook said.

Schmidt adamantly believes that being the middle child is superior.

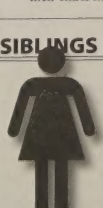
"The middle child can get along with others and they can beat up the youngest," Schmidt said. "It's the best of both worlds."

"The middle child can get along with others, and they can beat up the youngest," Schmidt said. "It's the best of both worlds."

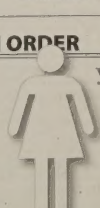
CHARACTERISTICS OF SIBLINGS BASED ON BIRTH ORDER



oldest child: leader, bossy, verbal, people pleaser, social, fear of rejection, fights with parents, high IQ, responsible



middle child: difficult to define, yearn for attention, compromisers, diplomatic, secretive, independent, good at public relations



youngest child: "baby", spoiled, carefree, outgoing, family clown, love to party, stress to be better than siblings, disregards authority

COURTESY SOURCE

Most logical place to recover misplaced items most often last checked

'Lost and Found' located in attendance office boasts plethora of student's forgotten belongings

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Although the lost and found should be the first logical place to visit upon losing something, it is often unfortunately and bafflingly the last place anyone goes.

"I had lost my mittens; I thought they would be in my locker, since I was not using my locker that much. It took me two months to finally realize that I should go and look in the lost and found for them," Noelle Prete (10) said.

People tend not to realize that the lost and found most likely has the items they have lost. Sometimes students believe that they have left their things in a teacher's classroom, unknowingly let a friend borrow their possessions or that the objects were stolen.

> "I would never think about going to the lost and found to look for something I had lost."
>
> **CLAIRE MCKIBBEN (10)**
> *Loses Personal Items*

If a student leaves an object in a teacher's classroom, the teacher generally keeps it to give to the student the next day rather than delivering it to the lost and found, hence a general misconception regarding the unimportance of the lost and found.

"The lost and found was the last place in my mind where I thought I could find my sweatshirt. When I first realized it was gone, I asked my friends and teachers, but now I know that it was in the lost and found the whole time," Shannon Mackenzie (10) said.

Other students simply do not care about the lost item. After a day or so, the students may simply give up, considering the relative worthlessness of the item in question. If the lost item has been missing for a while, students forget about the object and move on with their lives. Instead of going to look for it, they may ask their parents to buy them a new one or borrow one from someone else.

"I would never think about going to the lost and found to look for something I had lost," Claire McKibben (10) said.

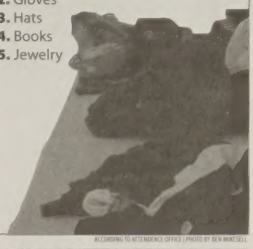
The fact remains that the lost and found simply lives in a dusty corner of the back of a student's mind. The lost and found boasts a plethora of misplaced items. The items displayed in the main hallway are not the only objects in the lost and found; there are far more in the attendance office.

"When I went through the lost and found looking for my mittens, it took a while to find them because there was a bunch of stuff from gym and other classes," Prete said.

Items that are in the lost and found are displayed in the main hallway to remind students that the lost and found is always there. The lost and found could help students find what was lost. If students would go to the lost and found to claim their things, there would not be as many piles of lost materials there, but instead, there remain many unclaimed lost items.

TOP 5 LOST ITEMS

1. Clothing especially winter coats
2. Gloves
3. Hats
4. Books
5. Jewelry



ACCORDING TO ATTENDANCE OFFICE | PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Classic coming-of-age novels possess character

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

If there's one thing I don't understand about the largely negative modern-day attitude surrounding reading, it's the mentality that all classic coming-of-age novels are the work of cosmically evil forces. I may be among the minority, but I hardly think that teachers assign novels to spite their students – there's something to be ascertained from every classic, and I can't think of any group that could reap more lessons from books than teenagers.

I can scarcely count the number of times that I've sat in a group of students who vociferously rip a book to shreds, leaving me to be the outlier that sheepishly admits to having enjoyed the reading. The recent deluge of slander against Jane Eyre and Great Expectations has left me clueless as to how so many students could hold such disparaging opinions of peerless coming-of-age novels.

Perhaps Bronte and Dickens do reach points of occasional excess, but the novels are beautifully eloquent, and Jane and Pip serve as admirable figures; their stories teach us to be partners in marriage rather than unequal combatants, to overcome class prejudice, to value conscience and love over social prominence, to fearlessly shatter the glass ceiling. Pip and Jane embody timeless truths that transcend intricate diction, the linguistic beauty that is marvelous to me but that which so many students bemoan.

If there's anything that I vehemently loathe in the teaching of classic novels, it is undoubtedly the dreaded "have you ever experienced similar circumstances?" query. The point of reading a novel is not to put myself in the protagonist's shoes and make their story twistedly my own, so to speak, but to appreciate the character's evolution for what it is and for how expressively the author weaves the narrative. Taking that precarious leap of imbuing the protagonist with oneself is downright offensive – it clouds the author's intent, impresses the reader upon the novel, chips away at its fictitious merit. Let the book stand independently and be venerated for what it is, not for what you want it to be.

The Catcher in the Rye is often lauded as the coming-of-age novel with which all teenagers can identify. Why try to connect, I say? I indeed empathize with Holden Caulfield, but I see neither necessity nor benefit in comparing my life to his; the book is his story, not mine. When teachers compel students to force themselves upon the novel, they come to hate it, and they thus usher in today's dismal situation regarding appreciation of the classics. I can only urge people not to drum themselves into the novel, not to instill the protagonist with their own characteristics or imprint upon him or her; it's a disgrace to the integrity of the book, to the vision of the author.

Yes, the classics are cloaked in obscure vernacular that only the most dedicated of self-confessed book elitists such as I tend to appreciate. However, no matter how they are communicated, the messages conveyed by these novels are invaluable, so long as one can be impartial enough to recognize them.

CURRICULAR extra-activity withdrawl

Postseason solutions to keep athletes in shape all year long

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

In the wake of a strenuous season jam-packed with athletics, academics and the elusive social life wedged somewhere in between the two, athletes whose seasons have recently come to a bittersweet conclusion may well want to take a well-deserved break from all physical activity whatsoever. However, for the adrenaline junkies who have no choice but to keep pounding the pavement long after their season is over, Fort Wayne offers more opportunities for physical activity than many may know.

RIVERGREENWAY

The Aboite Trails are a common path for avid joggers, but for a change of scenery, athletes should pay a visit to the far-lesser known and yet far more expansive Fort Wayne Rivergreenway, a 19.5 mile trail that stretches an impressive conduit between two sections of the city. The St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rivers sector of the trail extends from Johnny Appleseed Park to Tillman Park, while the downtown portion stretches from Edgewater Avenue to New Haven's Moser Park. An asphalt surface along the banks of Fort Wayne's three infamous rivers, the Rivergreenway traverses replica notable landmarks such as the of the Old Fort, the confluence of the three rivers and Johnny Appleseed's gravesite. An extensive trail through untamed wilderness and some of Fort Wayne's most notable landmarks, the Rivergreenway's 19.5 miles provide a killer workout in addition to a historical tour.

PHOTO WWW.PITDURAFIGURE.COM

CHARITY RUNS

Not only do charity runs assist in keeping off-season athletes in prime shape, they fulfill Key Club volunteer hours and look fabulous on college resumes. The Fort Wayne Track Club boasts numerous charity runs every year, including the upcoming St. Jude's Spirit Run (April 17) and the Indiana Tech Warrior Run for One (April 25). What's more, the Track Club provides a fellowship of athletes equally as dedicated to their craft as Homestead's athletes, offering a solid foundation of potential running mates as well as sage advice.

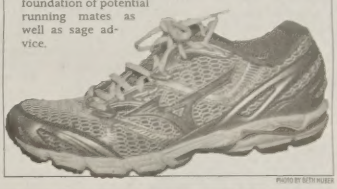


PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

ROCKCLIMBING

Rock climbing may seem like fun and games due to the brightly colored wall at the Aboite YMCA, but little do many passing bystanders know, scaling crags and outcroppings is considered strenuous exercise in many circles. Earth Adventures Unlimited, located proximally to Lindenwood Cemetery, boasts a basement affectionately entitled the "Boulder Down Under," a colossal underground gym in which the walls are entirely covered with handholds and precarious footings. Rookie climbers can tone up by scaling the underground walls, but after sufficient practice, athletes looking to keep in shape may well find that real rock climbing is an unparalleled form of strength training.

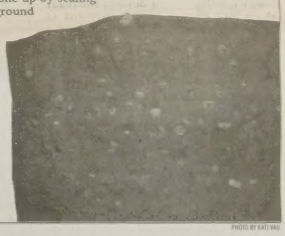


PHOTO BY KATI VAIL

FENCING

It may be unconventional and referred to as downright nerdy, but the fact remains that fencing is an intense workout and a surefire change of pace from even the most obscure sports offered at Homestead. The Summit City Fencing Club, which practices at the St. Henry Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., describes its sport as a test of endurance far contrary to the choreographed bouts seen on television and in films, "closer to Star Wars than Errol Flynn." The Fencing Club even goes so far as to host team matches in which up to nine fencers square off gracefully to the final blow, creating a thorough round of exercise that both those who dream of lightsaber duels and off-season athletes alike can appreciate.

PHOTO WWW.WALLPAPERS.NET

Technological advances pave way for new student activities

Robot tournaments, competitions, leagues held throughout midwest allow students to showcase experience

BY ALEX BARNARD
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Just as technology has advanced throughout the past twenty years, the activities of students have followed according to suit. Robot competitions and tournaments have become a growing trend all over the country and local area in recent years.

Beginning in kindergarten, students have the opportunity to get involved in robotics competitions. As students become more advanced in the field, so do the robots.

"As the student advances, they learn how to build new systems and why they work," Kevin Landrigan (10), who takes part in the National Robotics Competition (NRC) held in Marion, Ohio, said. "Eventually, the students will get to the point where they can build the circuit boards for their robots and design all of the systems without assistance."

Robot competitions are foreign to many people. In each competition or tournament, there are usually three or four basic areas of competition: a speed competition in which robots are judged on speed, a strategy competition in which robots are challenged to perform different tasks including picking up different objects, a maze competition in which robots are navigated through different labyrinths and in some cases, a fighting competition in which robots fight one another head to head. Each competition or tournament does some variation of each event, but every one still has the same basic concept.

Tournaments, competitions and leagues are held all over the country. Youth Building Our Tomorrow (Youth BOT) is a league held in the Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana, area. The league is composed of 16 high school teams that meet every three months to compete in a round robin competition. The overall best record and average scores determine the placement of each team. Youth BOT began in 2001 with a group of South Side High School students who wanted to build a competition robot. It has now expanded to the 16 participating schools today, and hopes to expand to the entire state.

Teams have all different strategies when it comes to actually building and programming their robots.

"The team met for a few weeks after school in order to build the base robot and program it," Ben Griffith (11), a participant in the Youth BOT League, said. "But after that, we just tweak it at the competitions in between matches."

In all competitions, teams have the options of making their robots as technical or complicated as they want. Experience comes into play with the building process as well; the longer that students have competed, the more experience they obtain.

"We test each part of our robot for strength by dropping it on the floor; not very technical, but a good simulation of a part falling off a table at competition," Paul Kusisto (9) said.

Each part of the competition allows team members to problem solve and strategize. As they go through different phases of the competition, problems and technicalities arise which require a quick fix.

"My favorite part of competing is probably the tweaking in between rounds, the analyzing of what went wrong, what was good and how we can improve," Griffith said.

For some students, participating in these competitions has only been for fun, but for others, it has been a door to a possible new career.

"These competitions have helped to teach me not only basics of programming and engineering, but also working well in a group and respecting your competitors," Kusisto said.

As the trend of robotics competitions continues to increase, students' experience does as well. Access to leagues and competitions provides students with opportunities that could help to shape future careers.

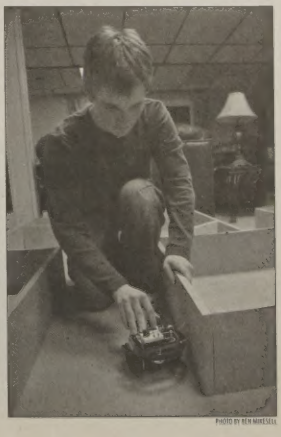


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Kevin Landrigan (10) practices in his basement for the National Robotics Competitions, held in Marion, Ohio.

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

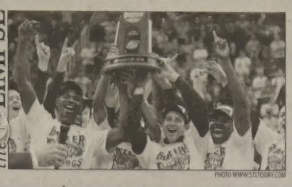


PHOTO: WWW.SI.TODAY.COM

The Butler Bulldogs pulled off an impressive win over Kansas State to advance to the NCAA Tournament Final Four. Along with the Indiana native team, Michigan State will represent the Big Ten as they return to the semifinals for the sixth time in 12 years. West Virginia comes to Indy from the Eastern region while they are paired up with the only one-seed left, Duke. Needless to say, Homestead brackets have been baffled with the unpredictable tournament.

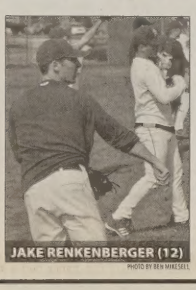
[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

the SPRING sports PREVIEW 2010

BASEBALL

The boys' baseball team has a lot to live up to after last year's finish. Two years in a row the team has finished in the top ranks of the state, and expectations for this year are not any lower. In fact, this year's team is comprised of more then 10 seniors, all of whom bring with them experience from state runs in prior years. The team is coached by Steve Sotir who in his third season has coached the team to a record of 23-3--a great improvement from previous coaches.

Unlike other teams at Homestead, the baseball team will take a trip to Tennessee over Spring Break. After acquiring two SPV's, the team will head south to play three games in hopes of preparing for the upcoming season. Due to IHSAA rules, the team cannot travel any further than their destination, which stops high school teams from traveling nationwide in hopes of competing against the best teams in the country.



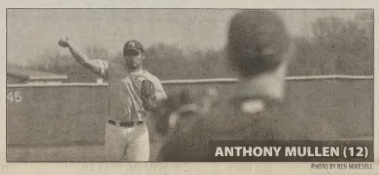
JAKE RENKENBERGER (12)

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

This year the team is implementing a new practice squad, comprised of six to eight players who practice with the varsity team, but do not play in games. The goal is to get juniors and sophomores who did not make the dressing squad this year experience so that they are ready to play when called upon. Also, dressing squad players can be sent down to practice squad, while practice squad players can be sent up if they are performing particularly well.

The season started with an 11-1 victory over the North Side Redskins. Eric Kartman (12) started for the Spartans and received help at the plate from John Killham (12) and Jake Renkenberger (12), as each homered before the team won after the 10-run rule went into effect.

The key games this year will come in conference play against Carroll, both a rival and team the Spartans lost to last season. The team will also look to avenge its loss last season when it plays Huntington North, who beat them 2-11 early last year. This year's team has room for growth as they hope to return to Victory Field after a shorter than expected season last year. – *Max Isroff*



ANTHONY MULLEN (12)

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

BOYS' GOLF

The boys' golf team took a huge hit with the graduation of two key varsity players, Michael Jenkins ('09) and Grant Sawyers ('09), after last season. The team looked to be in even more trouble when last year's number one player, Al Jennings (12), left Homestead to go to school in Florida. However, Jennings has returned and will be the Spartans' most experienced player this season.

"I'm glad to be back to play my senior season at Homestead. I'm excited to see how our team plays out the season, and I'm excited to see how I play myself," Jennings said. "I'm hoping to place higher at state than I have in the previous years, so that I can be proud of how I finish off my senior season."

TOM KOCKS (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The other returning varsity players are Jon Finley (11) and Tom Kocks (11). There is plenty of leadership on the team this year with four senior varsity members. The seniors are Jennings, Zach Landin, Adam Kelley, and Adam Dobis.

"Our goal this year is to be one of the top finishers at state as a team. It will be tough since we lost Michael and Grant, but hopefully we get it done," Finley said. "My personal goal this season is to be a top 10 finisher at state, which I believe I can do."

"With the first match sneaking up on us, every bit of practice is important for our team's success," Jennings said. – *Blake Johnson*

TANNER MACY (10)

PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

SOFTBALL

The girls' softball team comes off one of its best seasons in school history, returning some of its best players and looking for a deep run in the state playoffs. Jena Hamrick (11), ranked in the top five players in the state last year in runs and hits, is returning to the team as a junior who is looking to break the multiple school records she set last year. The team is coached by Tom Clagg, who led his team to the regional semi finals last year before falling in a close game to Harrison High School.

The team will be looking to overcome the loss of pitching phenom Jacqui Mathias ('09), who graduated last year with a 0.37 earned run average in 94 innings pitched. The team will turn to multiple pitchers this year, including Avery Migues (9) to make up for the loss of Mathias.

JENA HAMRICK (11)

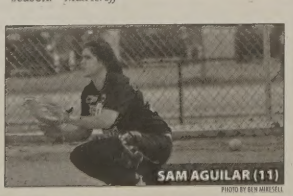
PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

The Spartans were ranked in the top 25 teams in the nation after producing an undefeated season that was stopped short of winning the state tournament.

Hamrick is not the only girl on the team this year that can produce such impressive results, however. Emma Dafforn (12), Sam Harless (12) and Hamrick all hit one home run each in the team's first game last Saturday, Mar. 27. Lauren Olson (11) hit two out of the park in a 12-2 win over Heritage.

"We looked good in our first game, hopefully we can continue that during the season and into the playoffs," Olson said. "We're focusing on the next game, not the end result, but we do all expect to do well this year."

And if the team hopes to do well, important conference games like those against Norwell and Huntington North will be the key to a successful season. – *Max Isroff*



SAM AGUILAR (11)

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

BOYS' TRACK

Homestead's boys' track team doesn't fool around. They start their training months before their first meet, and once regular practices do begin, they kick their energy into high gear and don't stop until the last time they walk off the track after the last meet of the season. As coach Jeff Livensparger thinks about the season to come in his second year as head coach, he is optimistic on the skills and potential of the team.

"Since Cross Country had a fantastic year, our team should be strong with many returnees and some very talented newcomers," Livensparger said.

The Spartans were undefeated in their regular season last year and took first place in sectionals. The Spartans then took fifth at regionals and thirty-fifth in the state. The Spartans also took first place as a team at numerous championships that were held throughout the season, including the Harding Invitational, Warsaw's Max Truax Invitational, and were the North Side Relay Champions and Lime City Relay Champions.

As this year's season begins, many runners look to improve their statistics from last year, and for many of the seniors on the team, this year is their year. Joe Kaufman (12), a prime runner in the 400 and 4 x 400, is looking forward to the coming season as a chance to leave his mark in the Homestead boys' track program. – *Connor O'Hara*

PATRICK MCCARTHY (12)

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

GIRLS' TENNIS

After an excellent season last year as the state runner-up, the Homestead girls' tennis team looks to better their performance and finish the season with a bang. With the graduation of number one singles star Jade Johnson ('09), younger players will have to step up to take her place. Theresa Sciole ('09), Tiffany Schendel ('09) and Claire Lundergan ('09) also graduated with Johnson. The loss of four seniors is a major blow to a team with as much experience as Homestead's team. However, Suzie Reecer (12) will guide the team as the senior leader, having played varsity tennis for three years. Reecer will most likely play singles, but the final lineup is still undecided.

"By the looks of things, we will be really good this year. We have a lot of good freshman along with our more experienced players. Hopefully we can do even better than we did last year," said Reecer.

The team also returns Johnson's sister, Macy Johnson (10), the number two singles state champion from the previous season.

"This should be a really exciting season for us," Macy said. "We have a lot of talent again this year, so we should be able to make a run for the state championship. I felt like I played well last year, but I think I can take it up another step this year."

ALLISON OVERLANDER (9)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The first match will take place on April 15th against the Concordia Cadets.

Although our team is made up of mainly underclassmen, the talent level is extremely high. If everybody plays with confidence, the season should turn out very well for us," Reecer said.

– *Blake Johnson*

GIRLS' TRACK

The Homestead girls' track team is just one of many spring sports teams determined to prove that they have what it takes to be considered one of Homestead's top sports of 2010. The team, coached by Amy Barnes in her third season, finished with a record of 4-5 and finished fifth in their conference. The team also finished second in their sectional and qualified seventh as individuals and first for relay for the regional meet. One of the key components of the team is Terraysha Gordon (12), who qualified for the IHSSA Girls' State Track meet in the 200 meter dash.

In addition to the track aspect of the sport, many girls are creating a buzz with the field events such as discus, shot-put and long jump. Ari Nelson (9) is one of the most dominant long jumpers on the team, smashing many records set by some of the senior members on the team. The girls' first outdoor meet was on Mar. 28. The Spartans received eight first place finishes, five second place finishes, and four third place finishes. The Spartans finished second in their meet behind Northrop and ahead of Huntington North. The girls' track members are looking at this season as a time for improvement and rebuilding.

"We are really focused on improving last year's scores, and we're all trying really hard to push ourselves and see how good we really are," Jenna Merchant (10) said. – *Connor O'Hara*

BELLA BETANCOURT (9)

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

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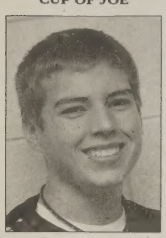
Top-seeded teams cause flabbergasting upsets in March Madness tourney

The one month of the year where the name Omar Samhan means anything to you has finally arrived. The one reason that makes school worth going to, as we get to see brackets clutter the desks and hallways of Homestead. CBS is preferred over ESPN at lunch, as arguments over who is better between Evan Turner and John Wall replace the conversations of whether or not the cafeteria cheese, really is cheese. March Madness, it's really a beautiful thing. From selection night, to the championship game, the entire month feels surreal. While the Olympics may have been the bandwagon to jump on last month, the focus has shifted to the NCAA tournament, and rightfully so. With teams from different parts of the country, and bracket pools for everyone, the producers have figured it out by having the tournament appeal to both sexes, and all ages.

As opposed to past years, it could easily be argued that this year has included the more upsets as opposed to any other year. Just on the first day of the first round, Villanova fell to St. Marys, Georgetown loses to Ohio, and Notre Dame is out before school was even over. According to ESPN, there were only two brackets out of over 48 million that were still perfect after the end of the first round. For the first time ever, I put some hard thought into my bracket, I literally could've filled out a better bracket blindfolded, with my hands tied behind my back. But what doesn't make sense, is that seeing good teams lose is exciting. Imagine a playoff scenario that includes the Lakers losing to the Nets, the Saints losing to the Chiefs, in no other situation is America excited to see good teams lose to teams that some of us didn't even know existed.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

But for most of us, I think the appeal of March Madness is being able to convince yourself that the fourteen seed team will beat the three seed. For me, my past brackets depended on upsets, and Cinderella stories. Who would've thought that I would regret picking the favorites to win. This is the first year that there has ever been two five seeds competing in the Elite 8.

> "I think the appeal of March Madness is being able to convince yourself that the fourteen seed team will beat the three seed."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

Unlike other sports, I think the fast pace of the tournament is one of the biggest entertainment factors of the tournament. 65 games played in less than a month? It's hard to turn on CBS at night and not find a basketball game on. For me, I enjoy the way that CBS has been showing the games, strategically showing them so that they all finish within more or less than two hours of each other. While they can only show one game at a time, I rarely find myself wishing that they would be showing another game, primarily because CBS chooses to show the closest game at the time. While the games are almost always competitive, a montage of buzzer beaters make the last two minutes of any game worth watching.

With the proposal of expanding the tournament next year, I'd have to agree. I don't see the negative side of an expansion, but only positive outcomes. It would include more teams that we'd like to watch, and hopefully let more competitive teams play, as opposed to having the winner of the Mid West Atlantic Sun Conference or whatever you want to call it get knocked out by one seeds. The gambling industry would also prosper, as they would only make money with the addition of more games to bet on.

I love March Madness as much as anyone else, there's not a whole lot to dislike about it. For me, Notre Dame losing in the opening round was the worst part of the tournament. But besides the fact that the Irish play worse with Luke Harangody, the NCAA tournament is never a let down. Being able to see John Wall light it up for three games in a row, at least until they play West Virginia, is a treat for anyone with basic programming. With constant action, a montage of buzzer beaters, the men's NCAA tournament proves to be the most exciting month of the year for anyone with a taste in sports.

fighting [for the] last goal

1. Dan Gessel (12) endures a hard hit from the opposing team during the city championship. 2. Ethan Bragalone (11) listens attentively to his coach at the bench during a regulation timeout. 3. Kevin Kelley (12) prepares to pass the puck to a teammate up the ice.

PHOTOS BY SUZE REITER

Hockey team wins city championship

BY ANDREW WEISS
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Like the ending to a good book, the Homestead Hockey team finished their season after reaching the climax, that the Homestead hockey team has written over the last six months. In the final game of their season, the team looked failure in the eye and wrote a typical story book ending to their dream sequence of a season.

Just like in any sport, greatness is determined in the postseason play. With the team undefeated in league play, sporting a record of 20-0-1 heading into the city title game against Carroll, the team had to play 45 minutes of good hockey to be crowned the greatest team in the city.

"[Heading into that night] everyone knew we were going to get Carroll's best game this season," Coach Jim Glick said.

Carroll, the team who had just won a state title at the 3A level the weekend before the city championship game, was able to counter Homestead's speed with physical play held that would hold the team to a scoreless first period. Then, just 36 seconds into the second period Carroll scored on a low quick shot, that would go past Nick Rahn (11) for the game's first goal.

"I knew our team would pull through at the end," Rahn said, who stopped 40 shots throughout the game. "The goal wasn't really anyone's fault; it was just a good shot and I really think it motivated us to pick up our play."

Homestead countered right back three minutes later with a one-time goal from Jarred Gidley (12) after a pass from Ryan Sweazey (12), who had been his linemate all season. Carroll didn't fold over and went onto score again with another low shot on Rahn, making the score two to one near the end of the second period. The score would remain that way heading into the ice resurfacing break between the second and third period.

"It was definitely pretty tense and all of us knew we weren't getting it done and the captains and seniors kind of voiced their opinions on what needed to be done in the final fifteen minutes to win the game," assistant captain Kevin Kelley (12) said.

The team had been in this position before, down heading into the locker room with just one more period to play, though this game was different. Carroll was beginning to control the game and was up with the arguably most confidence any team had against Homestead in any city league game.

> "It's nice to know you have your peers cheering you on even when we were down..."
>
> **PAUL LEE (9)**
> *Varsity Hockey Player*

"All year if games were close we came out after the [intermission] and we would almost always pull away," Kelley (12) said. "With that being known, we weren't as worried as [Homestead teams] in the past would've been because we knew we had the legs and the talent to get back into the game and win the game."

The team proved that their big third period's extended into the playoffs as the team got a quick goal from A.J. Fasick (9, Blackhawk) after a pass from captain and fellow classmate Justin Glick (12, Blackhawk). The duo connected again on the power play with three minutes remaining in the third period to put Homestead ahead for the first time. Max Dvorak (9) added a goal three minutes later to all but seal the game as well as the Komet Cup.

"Any lead gave this team got all year took a lot less pressure off everyone," Rahn said. "Knowing our team, once we got that first one in [in the third period] we knew that goals would keep coming."

Jarred Gidley capped off a huge third period by scoring an empty net goal with nine seconds to go and keep the perfect league season intact. As the final seconds neared the crowd of an estimated 200 Homestead students and fans filled the new Canlan Ice Arena with the second-by-second countdown as gloves and sticks showered the ice.

"In the past years I've never had a student section to play behind because of playing down in Indianapolis or on travel teams here," Paul Lee (9) said. "It's nice to know you have your peers cheering you on even when we were down and [the championship] was no different, they really are a part of the team.

As for next year, the team will have several new faces attempting to copy and improve on this year's storybook season. With the departure of five seniors, four of which were named to either the first or second all city team, the team will be far less experienced. One major departure will also be their coach, Jim Glick, who has won two city titles in his four year tenure with the Spartans.

"There's a lot of skill in all the players that are leaving, but I think that there are certain underclassman as well as new players that can step up and fill the spots," Lee (9) said. "There's no reason why we cannot be one of the top teams again next year though."

SEASON SCHEDULE RESULTS

Oct. 21 vs. Northside W	Nov. 18 @ Northside W	Jan. 13 @ Snider W	Feb. 13 vs. Snider W
Oct. 24 @ Snider W	Nov. 25 vs. Snider W	Jan. 20 vs. Northrop W	Feb. 17 @ Northrop W
Oct. 28 vs. Northrop T	Dec. 2 @ Northrop W	Jan. 27 vs. New Haven W	Feb. 24 @ New Haven W
Nov. 4 vs. New Haven W	Dec 16 @ Carroll W	Feb. 3 vs Carroll W	Mar. 10 vs. Northrop W
Nov. 11 vs. Carroll W	Dec. 23 vs. Northside W	Feb. 6 @ Northside W	Mar. 17 vs. Carroll W

YOUR TURN

The only thing more valuable than our two cents is yours — weigh in on this issue's stories by e-mailing us, calling us or just stopping by in person. Letters to the Editor can be e-mailed to thespartana@gmail.com or dropped off in room 620. The Spartana staff can also be reached via telephone at 260-431-2251.

The Spartana reserves the right to edit Letters to the Editor for conciseness and content.

Intramural teams plan for next season

Basketball league concludes final games in 'extremely competitive' year

BY JACOB COOK
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

What started out as a friendly competitive league became a primary way to establish true dominance over classmates and earn the greatest bragging rights possible. This year's intramural basketball season, held at the YMCA on weekdays, quickly became one of the most competitive aspects of Homestead athletics as students from all grades competed on teams to become the best at Homestead.

Students put together their own teams and came up with their own names, and the competition grew even greater. With team names such as "Bromance" and "Victorious Secret," the season began as a fun way to exercise and be with friends. As the season progressed, the once friendly competition became a winner-takes-all battle for the top rank.

"It was extremely competitive, and even somewhat violent," Frankie Zirille (10) said. "There were a lot of good teams that had some surprisingly athletic players."

While some athletes consider intramurals their primary sport, other participants used the league as a way to get in shape for their spring season sports.

The league's season began at the beginning of the third quarter and came to an end two weeks ago. With either one or two games weekly, several teams organized unofficial practices to build up their team cooperation.

"We practiced multiple times after school days," Zirille said. "It helped out our team chemistry and we ended up creating some pretty awesome plays together."

To help represent their team, some teams chose to create custom t-shirts and wear them around the school to demonstrate team pride.

Bromance was the league's ultimate victor. The team consisted of seniors Tom Ault (12), Kegan Harkenrider (12), Cody O'Neal (12), Justin Hanford (12), Conor Osborne-Price (12), Wes Ring (12), and Anthony Mullen (12). Known for being one of the most competitive teams, Bromance lived up to the bar that they set for themselves and dominated the league throughout the season. As they overtook the lunchroom microphone and called out their opponent for the day, the team's confidence propelled them to their ultimate championship. Their final victory came over the team Shalom. Shalom was made up of Kolby Rutherford (10), Sean Duval (11), Daymon Osborn (10), Brandon Soat (10), Josh Caccamo (10), Ben Gillette (11), and Dominic Schroeder (11).

> "It was extremely competitive and even somewhat violent. There were a lot of good teams that had some surprisingly athletic players."
>
> **FRANKIE ZIRILLE (10)**
> *YMCA Basketball League Participant*

As for next year, several players will find relief that this year's champion will have no returning players. After a season of what has been considered the most intense athletic event this year at Homestead, players are already looking forward to next year.

While Blood Bath and Beyond's season ended shorter than expected, players already have made plans for next season.

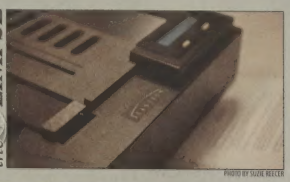
"While our team was very talented, we couldn't put the pieces of the puzzle together when postseason play started. I've made plans to play for next year's team, Stein and Associates," Carl Talley (11) said. "You could call it 'Johnson's Rejects' because we plan on picking up the majority of Homestead's former basketball team members."

The chants and trash talk in the hall will be missed for now, but several players will not have to wait long to satisfy their intramural sport cravings. Coming soon is the Homestead Intramural Dodgeball league, also to be held at the YMCA. The league will begin shortly after Spring Break, but official dates have not yet been confirmed. Previous years have included a regulation unfamiliar to the basketball tournament as well: the requirement of girls to be on a team. It is not yet known whether or not this will be a rule for this year as well. Despite all of the confusion surrounding this year's league, possible players are anticipating the sport.

"It's going to be tough to compete with basketball, but I have a feeling that dodgeball is going to bring a whole new element to Homestead," Zirille said. "I definitely plan to play again. But this time around, I'm in it to win it."

FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

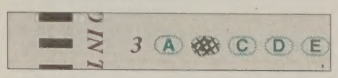


For the past nearly four decades, Scantron Corporation has provided schools with multiple-choice test forms and corresponding test-scoring machines that have been a lazy teacher's biggest dream come true ever since allowing assistants to manage the grade book was deemed acceptable. The Spartana investigates the Scantron below and examines those frequent rumors that fill the hallways concerning the accuracy of trying to trick the machine.

[FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET]

CAN THE SCANTRON TEST BE TRICKED?

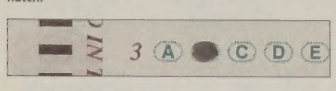
The myths have existed for years. Rumors have spread of ways to outsmart Scantrons, ranging from absurd nail polish applications to different bubbling techniques. The Spartana tested six different legends by filling out Scantrons and running the answer grids. The results were somewhat — and predictably — disappointing.



A. THE CROSS HATCH

This technique consists of making thin diagonal lines across the boxes. Though the cross-hatch won't help get a correct answer, the machine still reads it as a dark enough line and counts it as an answer.

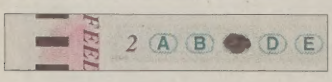
Bottom Line: There's no good reason to use a cross-hatch.



B. CLEAR NAIL POLISH

Putting clear nail polish over the thin black lines next to the questions on the Scantron to fool it is a popular myth. The theory is that the nail polish will mess up the orienting process of the machine, mistaking wrong answers for right ones.

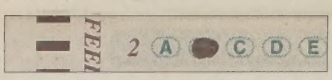
Bottom Line: Clear nail polish doesn't change anything and makes for some awkward moments in class.



C. CHAPSTICK

Rubbing some chapstick over the black lines in an attempt to trick the machine also does not work. People who try this believe that the chapstick may cause the answer sheet to stick to other sheets or the machine to give up on grading it. In most cases, a machine error on the Scantron leads to a human grader.

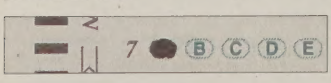
Bottom Line: Using chapstick on the test just makes a mess.



D. NON-NUMBER TWO PENCIL

If there's not an extra number two pencil to spare, another type of dark pencil can be used instead. The Spartana used a 6B-type pencil in its test. It won't affect the machine's ability to score, as the dark spots that indicate answers look the same to the machine. However, it can be more difficult to erase completely.

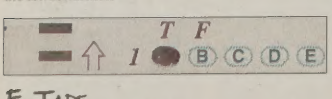
Bottom Line: Another pencil can be used but doesn't provide an advantage.



E. PEN

Pens generally are not allowed on Scantrons because students cannot erase, and when an error is made, a new answer sheet must be provided. The machine reads answers in ink just as it would responses in pencil.

Bottom Line: Pens can work if there's no doubt about the correct answer.



F. TAPE

In this attempt to trick the Scantron, small pieces of clear tape are placed over the black lines along the sides of the paper. The idea behind this method is that the tape will somehow cause the machine to be confused about which lines need to be read for proper and timely grading. Unfortunately, the Scotch Solution does nothing in increasing a score.

Bottom Line: Tape isn't helpful and difficult to put on during an exam.

Make your mark HEAVY AND DARK

Students still skeptical of teachers' go-to grading preference

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

Making marks heavy and dark may not always secure the right answer.

Scantron Corporation's assessment tools are used in schools, prisons and offices around the country and are marketed as a fast and efficient way to gather data. However, the machines are sometimes prone to errors that may lower a student's score in school.

"I would rather circle the answer," Megan Nichter (11) said. She said that she has had problems when the wrong bubble was accidentally filled in on a test.

The actual machine is incredibly accurate and most of the errors are due to problems with the answer key or a student failing to completely erase an answer.

"If you have it set for darker bubbles, it's not going to pick up some of those lighter marks," Shannon, a Scantron customer service representative who declined to provide a last name, said. "But if you have it set to a sensitivity of lighter, then it's going pick up some of those eraser marks."

The apparatus looks for dark marks to indicate an answer and generally cannot differentiate between a precisely bubbled "C" and a stray pencil mark.

Shannon also added that her Scantron office, located in Irvine, California, receives many calls about how to set and calibrate the machine. Most problems are due to gummy rollers, which she said must be replaced if the machine is handling a high volume of papers.

Tools do exist, however, for teachers to help students do better on multiple-choice tests. Scantron provides teachers with item analysis, a system that reports what percent of the test takers missed each question.

"I check for the questions missed most often and go back and look at the question to see if it was a fair question, and I check the key to make sure that I keyed the correct response," Emily Palmer, science teacher, said.

In addition to item analysis, Scantrons are used in almost every subject area for final exams. The ease of grading as well as the ability to gather a vast amount of information efficiently is helpful.

"[The Scantrons] provide an absolute deluge of data that we can use to quantify our efforts in teaching," Mark Lenfestey, head of the science department, said.

> "[The Scantrons] provide an absolute deluge of data that we can use to quantify our efforts in teaching."
>
> **MARK LENFESTEY**
> *Head of the Science Department*

Despite Scantrons' ability to harvest information and assess students, Nichter said she thinks that many students may find the Scantrons easier than an objective test.

"People don't try and don't know the info," she said of many students' tendencies to just answer randomly or choose all "B's", for example. "[The Scantron] makes it a lot easier for them to just fill in random things."

Even though teachers know the possibility for errors exists, most still continue to use the system as a time saving measure.

"Teachers who have 150 [or more] students throughout a day need to save time wherever and whenever they can," Matt Elder, physics teacher, said. "If a test can be given that adequately measures students' knowledge on a subject and can be graded quickly, that is great."

Q&A
TEACHERS SOUND OFF

Q: Do you often see errors in the Scantron's grading? Do you go through and check for these or do you let the students do it?

A: "The errors that I usually see deal with me not putting the right answer on the key. To check this I use the item analysis to see which questions where frequently missed by all the students taking the test."
- Johnathan Siebert, Chemistry teacher

A: "I do go through to check that students are not being counted wrong for multiple answers, when they have clearly erased one of the answers."
- Majorie Gamble, Algebra II teacher

A: I do not see errors in the grading except when a student has made an error on the sheet (double answers, not erasing completely, over-marking from another question).
- Matt Elder, Physics teacher

A: "Never due to the machine but sometimes due to the student not using a no. 2 pencil."
- Mark Lenfestey, Honors Physics teacher

A: "There are not often errors in the scantron's grading, definitely not enough to keep me from using them. The source of the error is usually either the teacher keying the wrong answer."
- Emily Palmer, Ecology and Chemistry teacher

A: "I only remember one time having a problem, an entire batch of semester exams had errors and they were re-run."
- T.J. McCombs, Math Department Head

PHOTOS BY BETH HOBER

Top: Lucy Lundergan (10) and Lindsey Carden (10) take a Scantron test on fossil fuels during Emily Palmer's sixth-period Ecology class. After grading the tests, Palmer allows her students to check the Scantron forms for any machine grading errors. Bottom: Social studies teacher Shawn Harkness grades a Scantron test in the teacher's workroom Monday morning. Harkness relies on Scantron tests to evaluate his students' progress in Government and AP Government classes.

How the Scantron machine works
(according to Derek Lattrell)

Step 1

Located in the faculty workroom is the godsend that is the Scantron machine, "print" buttons worn away from the frenzied fingers of various teachers throughout the years. The Scantron machine is really nothing more than the Barry Bonds of fax machines. To work this test-grader, teachers must fill out an answer form, which the machine then uses to base its grading criteria for the proceeding tests.

Step 2

As the operator feeds the students' answer sheets from right to left, the machine is then able to grade them in their entirety just as fast as the forms are entered; at a rate, according to the Official Scantron User's Guide, of "30 to 40 sheets per minute."

Step 3

Based on the information provided by the key initially inserted into the machine, lasers are beamed onto each line of the answer sheet, and the machine then reads the answer the test-taker bubbled in. If the bubbled answer does not match the teacher's answer key, the machine deems the question incorrect and, depending on the type of test form, displays the correct answer. Finally, a handful of coffee sips later, out pops a lovely stack of rectangular treasures, innocent in appearance but devastating in nature.

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Principal Rick Smith is turning to student government for ideas on how to handle senior parking problems next school year. 2A

LIFE
Thriving off madcap theories and dreading commercial breaks, Homestead's "Lost" Club anxiously awaits the show's finale. 5A

THE NEXT 65
With students in the thick of studying for AP exams, there remains glimmers of hope for an academic respite.. 8A

OPINION
Republicans' blatant hypocrisy is becoming more and more of a political burden as midterm elections rapidly approach. 3A

SPORTS
Club lacrosse players must grapple with private athletic fundraising as opposed to that of its varsity counterparts. 6A

ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net.

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BRIEFS

'HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS' SHOWTIMES
The spring play, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," will be showing May 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. on each date. The seasonal performance is held in the auditorium. Tickets for admission, which can be purchased during lunch modules or at the door using cash or check, are $5 for Homestead students and children 12 years or under. Tickets are $8 for adults.

RODNEY THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST
Information about and applications for the Rodney Thompson Scholarship are now available in Student Services. Applicants must write an essay about the importance of remaining focused while driving and restraining from texting behind the wheel. The application deadline is June 4.

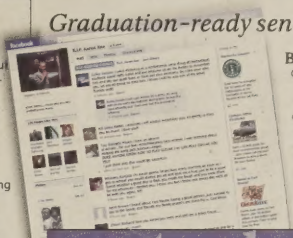
EARTHFEST DEMO CDS
Student bands or musicians interested in playing during the upcoming Earthfest concert must submit their demo disc by today. The CD can be dropped off in April Moss' room 531 or at the student government backroom during lunch.

YEAR-END SENIOR VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS
Senior variety show auditions will be conducted May 11 and 12. Potential performers can either contact Carolyn Mutton with any questions or sign up at the student government backroom during lunch this week.

AP EXAM SCHEDULE 2010
Today: Spanish Language at 8 a.m. • Statistics at noon
Wednesday: Calculus AB at 8 a.m. • Calculus BC at 8 a.m.
Thursday: English Literature and Composition at 8 a.m.
Friday: U.S. History at 8 a.m.
May 10: Biology at 8 a.m. • Music Theory at 8 a.m.
May 11: Chemistry at 8 a.m. • Psychology at noon
May 12: English Language and Composition at 8 a.m.
May 13: Macroeconomics at 8 a.m. • World History at 8 a.m. • Microeconomics at noon
May 14: Human Geography at 8 a.m.

Crash victim Kee could 'brighten anybody's day'

Graduation-ready senior killed in Clinton St. car wreck



By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

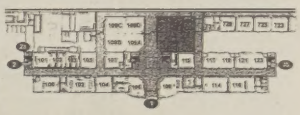
The loss of a loved one, a child or a friend is almost by definition devastating. On April 30, Homestead lost one of its loved ones. Students' Facebook and Twitter accounts were flooded as they heard the news of the loss of fellow classmate Aaron Kee (12). As a senior, Kee was set to graduate at the end of the year, and his four years at Homestead have allowed all those who knew him to attest to his benevolence and his kindness of heart.

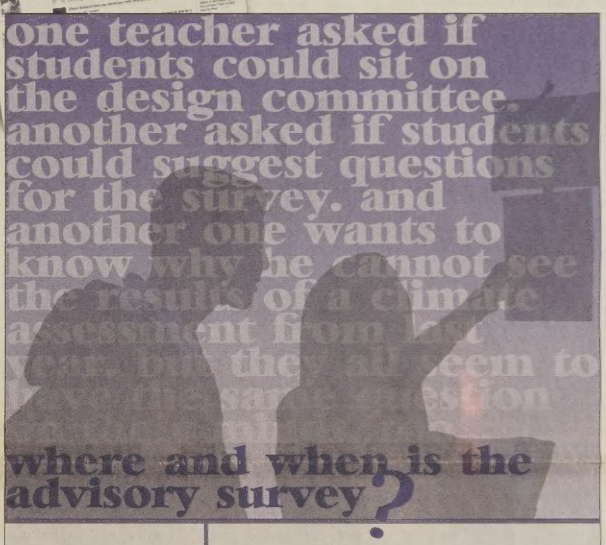
"Aaron Kee was one of the nicest and most polite kids I have ever met," Deavin Eviston (12) said. "He was my first friend at Woodside

▸▸SEE 'AARON KEE,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE KEELER

Above: The car accident involving Kee occurred after 3 p.m. Friday at Packard Ave. and Clinton St. Left: The Facebook group "R.I.P. Aaron" gained 500 members in two days.




one teacher asked if students could sit on the design committee. another asked if students could suggest questions for the survey. and another one wants to know why he cannot see the results of a climate agreement from the [illegible] seem to [illegible] from one
where and when is the advisory survey?

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Faced with uncertainties over the fate of advisory and a related survey to gauge student satisfaction, teachers are growing weary of the controversial initiative, according to faculty sources.

"The question of an advisory survey is a wholly justified question considering the climate of our staff and students regarding this topic and how the idea of advisory was implemented," Physics teacher Matt Elder said. "What troubles me is that the chairperson of the advisory design committee cannot answer the simple question as to why a survey has not yet been given."

"The program is about the kids and we need to know what the kids think."

TOM MAHER
Social Studies Department Head

The Spartana was originally informed that a similar questionnaire would be distributed when students returned from winter break in January, but the advisory team delayed the survey at that time.

"We want to have it [an advisory survey] during advisory, but we couldn't get it ready to roll," Jennifer Bay, head of the advisory design committee, said in a Jan. 21 interview. "We couldn't get it finalized in time."

Now, four months after the survey was tentatively scheduled, students still have not seen a survey, and the reason for the delay is unclear.

"Mr. Smith didn't want two surveys out on advisory at once," Bay said in Janu-

▸▸SEE 'SURVEY,' PAGE 2A

'Convenient' security revamp to restructure main entrance layout

Clough's classes relocate upstairs as changes to atrium region near

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Random drug testing and hallways cameras have led to multiple resource officers, a drug dog and, now, more secure school entrances. Southwest Allen County Schools' (SACS) emphasis on student safety prompted the district to note that due to the way most of the schools are built, an unidentified visitor can enter the school with relative ease. The administration hopes that added security areas will fix the problem.

SACS is working to add security areas to all of the schools' entrances, and Homestead is following suit. The security area will not be added because of any particular event, but as a precautionary measure.

"[The changes were] made just for security... [The district] is trying to establish a plan so that all schools have better security," principal Rick Smith said. "Homestead hasn't been reconfigured...[so] we're next in line to get our entrances restructured."

The security area uses a double-locking system in which visitors are buzzed in and then contained in a waiting area. There, visitors wait to be identified by a staff member. Once identified, they are allowed to enter the school. Although the system is time-consuming in the beginning, Smith expects that the process will not become an

▸▸SEE 'ENTRY,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE KEELER

English teacher Stephen Clough adjusts to his new location in the upstairs science hallway. His previous classroom in room 104 will be converted to a new front entrance.

RETIREES TO THE RESCUE

District dodges funding dire with staff buy-outs

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

▸▸25,000
dollars was offered to teachers as a bonus for participating in the retirement incentive program.

Schools closed, faculty fired and budgets cut make Indiana's public schools systems appear to be falling apart. Similar consequences could have awaited Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) had it not been for the innovative retirement incentive program that was implemented. The program offered a $25,000 retirement bonus to all teachers who retire after this year.

With 19 teachers having consented so far, the program will actually save hundreds of thousands of dollars for SACS by allowing the district to hire new teachers for much lower salaries. Teachers, administrators and district officials alike praise the program because of how much money it can save the district.

"I think it is a great plan," Gregory Fryzel, French teacher and participant in the program, said. "It makes it so the district doesn't have to lay off teachers, and also aids teachers that wish to retire."

If the program had not been implemented as smoothly as it has been, dire consequences would have risen. Thankfully, this was not the case.

"SACS would have needed to

▸▸SEE 'RETIREMENTS,' PAGE 2A

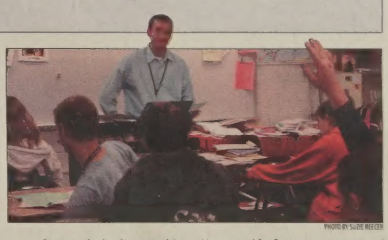
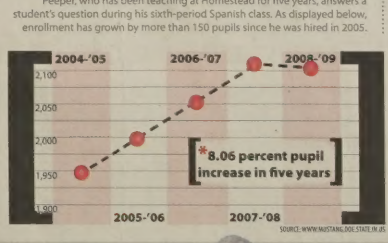


PHOTO BY SUZIE KEELER

Peeper, who has been teaching at Homestead for five years, answers a student's question during his sixth-period Spanish class. As displayed below, enrollment has grown by more than 150 pupils since he was hired in 2005.



Peeper: Teacher of the Year honor 'humbling, surprising'

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Spanish teacher Justin Peeper was recently chosen as Homestead High School's 2010 Teacher of the Year. Peeper, who has taught at Homestead for five years, received his award, an engraved plaque, on April 27.

"Being chosen as Teacher of the Year has been humbling and surprising," Peeper said. "I really didn't expect it."

Peeper graduated with a B.A. in Spanish and Journalism from Ball State University. He then went on to participate in multiple exchange and volunteer programs in South America. After working as a journalist for The News-Banner of Bluffton, Ind., Peeper came to Homestead to be a Spanish teacher.

"It's been a fantastic experience here at Homestead," Peeper said. "I wouldn't want to be teaching anywhere else. The students, teachers

▸▸SEE 'TEACHER OF THE YEAR,' PAGE 2A

"It's been a fantastic experience ... I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

JUSTIN PEEPER
Teacher of the Year

STERLING SWEEP

Homestead captures five Sterling Sentinel scholarship winners

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Every year, the News-Sentinel awards Fort Wayne area high school seniors with the Sterling Sentinel scholarships in 14 subjects. Students are nominated for scholarships in journalism, arts, athletics, business, drama, English and literature, foreign language, industrial and vocational, mathematics, instrumental music, vocal music, science, social studies and speech.

This year, the nominees were recognized and the winners announced on April 21 at the Embassy Theatre. Of the 14 students across Fort Wayne who received scholarships, 5 of the winners are Homestead students. Patrick Svitek (12) was awarded the journalism scholarship, Michael Buchanan

▸▸SEE 'STERLING,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE KEELER

▸▸STERLING CONTINUED FROM 1A

(12) was awarded the art scholarship, Celia Grundman (12) was awarded the English and literature scholarship, Abhishek Chintapalli (12) was awarded the science scholarship and Sarah Kusisto (12) was awarded the math scholarship.

Buchanan, Grundman, Chintapalli and Kusisto each received a $1,500 scholarship to use toward college. However, because the scholarship is given by a local publication, Svitek received a $3,000 scholarship for his journalism award.

All applicants for the Sterling Sentinel awards were nominated by a teacher and confirmed by the subject's department. Applicants then filled out an application form and were interviewed by a panel.

"My brother actually won the award for journalism three years ago, so I actually knew about [the award process]," Buchanan said. "Before winter break, they called all the nominees down to tell us that we were nominated for our category, and we had to fill out an application. The application was pretty generalized for everybody, and then each category told us what we would be doing in our interview process."

Interviews were tailored according to the subject for which the applicant was nominated.

"The arts category said to bring at least 10 pieces of original artwork to the interview, and so I brought about 15 pieces [to the interview]," Buchanan said. "It was a pretty relaxed environment, and I showed them what I did and what my artwork was about."

All recipients were awarded a certificate, a plaque and money awards along with the high honor that comes with winning such a competitive award.

"I was extremely happy and excited when they called up my name, but the best part was the reaction of teachers, especially Ms. McCombs and Mrs. Christophersen," Chintapalli said. "Ms. McCombs was even more excited than I was. As for my family, they were happy about it and everything. My grandma even became a bit emotional when she came on stage to take pictures. Ever since my hearth arrhythmia back in February, I've been really chill about school and studies in general so exciting news like this really cheers me up. I'm definitely going to put the money to good use at Harvard."

Even though the nominees from Homestead were all very qualified, each one faced tough competition to beat out for their Sterling Sentinel scholarship.

"I was really surprised and honored to get the award," Kusisto said. "I knew the competition was really tough in the area with 21 nominees, and I knew there were a lot of smart kids, so I was really excited that I was chosen. My parents were there, and they were really proud of me."

Homestead received the greatest number of awards of any school represented at the awards ceremony.

SENTINEL SURPRISES

From left to right, as presented on page 1A:

• Abhishek Chintapalli (12)
Category: Science
Scholarship Amount: $1,500
Reaction to Win: "I was the fifth Homestead kid to get the award, so by the time I heard my name called, I was more excited for the school and my teachers in the audience than I was for myself."

• Sarah Kusisto (12)
Category: Mathematics
Scholarship Amount: $1,500
Reaction to Win: "I felt really honored and was surprised and excited that I had won."

• Celia Grundman (12)
Category: English
Scholarship Amount: $1,500
Reaction to Win: "I just wasn't expecting it."

• Michael Buchanan (12)
Category: Art
Scholarship Amount: $1,500
Reaction to Win: "When I got the award, I was fairly excited and it was cool because my brother [had] gotten it, too."

• Patrick Svitek (12)
Category: Journalism
Scholarship Amount: $3,000
Reaction to Win: "I really wasn't expecting it, but it's a great way to cap off the year."

Smith asks student government for input on next year's parking design

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Principal Rick Smith and Officer Jeremy Tinkel spoke with student government on April 28 about the parking situation next year. Due to resource limitations, the district believes that using funds to police the senior lot, as is currently done, would be financially irresponsible. Smith and Tinkel asked student government to draft solutions to the problem.

Among possible solutions to the problem is to open all three of the student parking lots to general parking. While the administration maintains that this solution is nothing more than an option and that a decision has not been made, rumors are spreading that the senior lot will not happen next year.

The problem initially arose because underclassmen were found parking in empty senior spots. Then, if the senior to whom the parking spot belongs arrives later, he or she must file a complaint with the discipline office. The license plate of the underclassman car must be checked and verified with the BMV, and the discipline office must determine which student brought the car to school and call the student to the office. Then, if it is the student's second offence, the school must call a towing company and verify that the company tows the right car. The process takes much of Tinkel's time, and after recent budget cuts, the school sees the necessity of the violation process as time and resources wasted.

The administration's goal is not to take away the senior lot but to find constructive solutions to the problem of the time-consuming discipline process associated with the senior lot.

"They're trying to find a solution to this, so we can end all of the discipline," Quinn Brenneke (12), executive president of student government, said. "The consensus of student government is that we would like not to take away senior parking since it's been here so long... basically, they need to cut down on discipline in the parking lot because it is really time consuming."

Proposed solutions include increasing the punishment of offenders to deter underclassmen from parking in the senior lot, assigning everyone a spot so that every student is assured a spot and does not have to search for a spot and opening all three lots to general parking.

The reaction from this year's junior class to the possibility of losing their lot has been quite negative.

"I think that not having the senior lot next year for the 2011 seniors is not fair," Brett Gauger (11) said. "We've been here for four years and we have patiently waited to have a close lot."

After the junior lot was switched to a general lot this year, many members of the class of 2011 feel as though taking away the senior lot the year that they would be able to use it would be unfair.

"It's been a sort of rite of passage for every senior as they attain the privilege of parking reasonably close to the building," Jacob Fehlhaber (11) said. "Considering that seniors have been there the longest, they deserve the closer spots."

The administration chose not to comment until they have determined how to address the financial concerns of parking lot discipline, but both Tinkel and Assistant Principal Jeff Kintz maintain that nothing is yet decided.

"What would be great from the student body is that if they have an idea, to let a student government member know about their idea," Brenneke said. "We can talk about it in our meeting... then bring that [idea] to the administration."

▸▸SURVEY CONTINUED FROM 1A

ary, referring to a survey the Spartana planned to give to students and offering one explanation as to why the survey was delayed.

The co-chair of the advisory feedback committee, Brad Wadkins, gave another explanation, denying that there had been any delay on the survey.

"There has been no delay on the survey at all. We decided to give the survey once the students had a chance to fully experience advisory," Wadkins said.

At this point the advisory survey still has not been administered, and there is no official date when it will take place, according to both committee members.

Meanwhile, the fact that students have not been surveyed is a matter of concern at the school.

"The program is about the kids, and we need to know what the kids think," Tom Maher, Social Studies department chair, said.

One of the most prevalent complaints among students is that they do not have enough input into the way advisory runs.

"I think it's currently pointless, and needs to be more organized and student led, like peer mentoring was," Michael Doust (10) said.

In addition to being surveyed, there is also the possibility that students could voice their opinions on a feedback panel along with teachers. AP U.S. History teacher Tom Stephenson claimed to have mentioned this topic at an April 14 staff meeting.

"I was told it was going to happen," he said, though he was not given a specific time range when students might join a feedback committee.

In addition to the delay of the student survey, teachers have also had problems getting the results of a faculty-centered survey they took online prior to winter break, explained World History instructor and Jon Baker.

"I've been asking for the results of the survey we took, but I haven't been able to get them," he said.

The primary concern among advisory participants is not the program itself, but the way the program has been implemented.

"The ideals and concepts behind advisory are noble in their attempt. The implementation of the program, however, has been sloppy at best while it has been forced onto teachers and students... members of the advisory team are not to blame. They have taken time from their already busy schedules to brainstorm, discuss, design lesson plans, advise other teachers, take criticism, and a myriad of other things I cannot even imagine," Elder wrote in an e-mail statement.

Elder also said that he had suggested students craft questions for a potential advisory survey, but did not specify the subsequent response he received from administrators.

The level of opposition to advisory in its current form by students has also caused problems for teachers seeking to engage.

"The concept of advisory is okay, but I don't think advisory is working for students, and that makes things difficult for the teachers who have to lead advisory classes," Baker said.

As the survey has been pushed back, when it will actually be given has become more ambiguous.

"We just keep hearing it's going to be this year sometime," Wendy Kovach, the other co-chair of the advisory feedback committee, said.

Members of the advisory team have committed to distributing the survey, though they have not provided a specific date when it would be given.

"It is very important for us to get the feedback on advisory from students and teachers," Bay said.

Regardless of the reason for the delay, students agree that for advisory to work there needs to be a change in the program.

"Trying to force advisory on people won't work, and students just won't participate. If they don't change the way it is being run, advisory will end up as a bad thing for students," Doust said.

Bay did not respond to three inquiries regarding the specificity of her Jan. 21 comments. – *Additional reporting by Celia Grundman and Patrick Svitek*

▸▸ENTRY CONTINUED FROM 1A

inconvenience.

"After a time, visitors should be able to move through as they had before," said Smith.

Other changes to entrances are being made as well. Door 4, the athletic hallway entrance, and Door 26, an entrance to the Freshman Academy, will also have security areas because they are heavily-used entrances. The attendance office will be moved next year as well. Instead of being down the hall from the main entrance, the attendance office will be at the Door 4 entrance.

"It's to make things more convenient," Smith said.

The security area will require more room than just the front entrance, so the administration has decided to expand into Room 104, Steve Clough's previous room, where he taught English Literature and AP English Literature and Composition. While he still teaches these courses, Clough has already relocated upstairs to a room in the science hallway.

"I have a nicer space...My move has worked out well," Clough said.

Clough views the change as a positive transition, saying that although the room is farther away from the rest of the school, he now has larger room with more storage area. His only regret is that his newly positioned room is fairly isolated from other English teachers and that he lost some neighbors.

"But overall, it's been an advantage in almost every way," Clough said.

All changes are expected to be made in time for the 2010-2011 school year, which begins mid-August as usual.

"There aren't any really dramatic changes," Smith said. "Our primary concern is our students' safety, and the new security areas will allow us to improve our ability to keep the building secure."

▸▸TEACHER OF THE YEAR CONTINUED FROM 1A

and administration are the best."

Peeper said that working with students is the best part of teaching.

"I wouldn't trade my students for the world," Peeper said. "I love teaching them Spanish American culture, telling them about my trips abroad and helping kids make connections between what they're studying and the world."

Peeper's students say that Peeper's enthusiasm for teaching shows during class, a trait that makes him stand out as a teacher.

"Señor Peeper is a good teacher who makes learning Spanish fun," Tiffany Musser (10) said. "I get more experience speaking the language instead of just learning it [from a book] and learning common phrases."

In addition to his enthusiasm, Peeper's genuine desire to understand students' academic interests and help them learn made him a strong candidate for Teacher of the Year.

"He makes an effort to get to know you and lets you know when you're doing something right," Shannon MacKenzie (10) said. "[He doesn't] just point out mistakes. It's nice to hear what you are doing right for once."

Because of Peeper's teaching traits, many students and staff at Homestead believe that Peeper was an excellent choice for the award.

"I think it's really awesome that he's teacher of the year," Musser said. "Pretty much anyone would consider him their favorite teacher."

Peeper was chosen to win Teacher of the Year by a panel of 10 teachers.

"Being chosen as Teacher of the Year made me feel really honored, and it was humbling," Peeper said. "It's nice to feel like I've earned my colleagues' respect and to know that out of all of the teachers at Homestead, I was the teacher they chose. It was a nice surprise."

▸▸RETIREMENTS CONTINUED FROM 1A

cut or release up to 14 teachers," Dr. Steve Yager, SACS superintendent, said. "However, as of this date, SACS has determined that no other cuts need to be made. The reason SACS was able to avoid staff cuts is that the district has been very good managers of taxpayer money for the past 15 years. In the last decade, SACS has cut $3.5 million from the school corporation budgets. Long-term fiscal planning is a strength of SACS."

The program was extremely beneficial to teachers who were already going to retire, also. The $25,000 bonus can go a long way in retirement.

"I was going to retire regardless," Dick Shenfeld said. "I was the first one that signed up, but [the bonus] will help me a lot towards paying for my insurance, so it will be nice."

Fryzel had also already decided to retire before the program was implemented, and also enjoyed the extra bonus.

"I was already planning on retiring, but when they implemented the bonus program, it made the decision easier for me," Fryzel said.

The district set deadlines for the program, but most teachers turned in both of the required forms before the deadline.

"Teachers have until May 3, 2010 to make a final decision on their intent to retire," Yager said. "There are two forms to be submitted for the SACS retirement incentive plan. The first form is an internal SACS form indicating the teacher's intent to retire. The second form is a federal release agreement form. The first form was due April 14, 2010, and the second form is due no later than May 3, 2010. 25 teachers have already turned in the SACS form qualifying them for the retirement incentive. 19 teachers have turned in the release agreement form. The remaining six have until May 3 to turn in the federal release form."

With East Allen Count Schools facing huge layoffs and budget cuts, and other school districts facing immense cuts as well, it seemed as if no district was safe. However, according to Yager, SACS is out of the woods for budget cuts. Thanks to the innovative plan put in place that allowed current SACS teachers to retire with a bonus while saving money in the long run by hiring back new teachers for a lower salary, SACS is safe from crippling cuts and layoffs.

▸▸AARON KEE CONTINUED FROM 1A

when I moved from California. I won't ever forget running against him in the mile during P.E. at the end of eighth grade. We would always challenge and push each other in friendly competitions like running."

Kee died at the scene of a high-speed car wreck, which occurred at 3 p.m. on Friday. Aaron was in the passenger's seat, and the driver was taken to the hospital in critical condition. Police say that the two may have been racing another vehicle.

His parents Victor and Brenda are devastated, but they remember him, as do his neighbors, as a kind soul with high aspirations.

"He wanted to be a full-time minister," Victor Kee, Aaron's dad, said. "He wanted to travel, too. Also, he wanted to have a family, he always talked about having a family. He loved kids. Everyone that's talked about him, they say he was a very loving person. His heart went out to everybody. He was constantly trying to help people. The kids in the neighborhood came over, and brought us a card. It didn't make a difference how old they were, whether they were older or younger. He always spent time with them."

> "He definitely won't be forgotten. His kindness and pureness will stay in the minds of loved ones and close friends forever."
>
> **TAY MYATT**
> *Friend of Aaron Kee*

Students who knew him at Homestead were blessed by his kind presence and his ability to lift their spirits.

"He could always make you laugh. He was pretty much an angel on earth," Tay Myatt (11) said. "He honestly brought smiles to people's faces, and that, with the added bonus of his hugs, would wash people's worries away. He was a down-to-earth person, very humble."

Aaron attended Anthis Career Center, where he also made an impact on his fellow students.

"He was never dragging anyone down. He was just always encouraging," Cody Walz, one of Aaron's classmates at Anthis, said.

Aaron Kee's death is a tragedy, but he will be remembered as a kind, helpful person who touched many lives and helped many people. He will not be forgotten by his grieving friends and loved ones, who fondly remember him as a soulful, kind person without a malevolent bone in his body.

"He most definitely won't be forgotten," Myatt said. "His kindness and pureness will stay in the minds of loved ones and close friends forever."

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

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Low preseason pressure, expectations proven wrong on court

Despite losing five seniors, girls' tennis team rallies together to give area schools competition

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Pressure can be either a team's best friend or worst enemy throughout a season. The girls' tennis team, with low expectations and pressure to do well, has excelled early in the season, and the team has once again has become one of the top teams in the Fort Wayne area.

Although the squad lost five seniors from last year's state runner-up team, freshmen such as Kelsey Vessels (9) and Mary Rajchel (9) have anchored the doubles squads and have filled the gaps to solidify the team from top to bottom.

"The upperclassmen have helped us a lot and I think that's helped us play well," Allison Overlander (9) said. "On this team it seems like it doesn't matter what grade you are in. It is just about doing well."

The team has also benefited from the additions of the Emberger twins, who moved into the district this past year. Laura Emberger (11) typically is on the number two doubles team, while sister Katie Emberger (11) is the number three singles player. Both girls have contributed experience that would 'not otherwise have been present this season.

21
was the rank of the girls' tennis team in the first state coaches' poll of the season on April 5.

"The three freshman and [the Embergers] have really helped our team," Macy Johnson (10) said. "The twins have helped us a lot all around and have played well so far."

Although only a month into their season, the team has picked up right where the state runner-up team left off last spring. Despite an opening season loss to a district fifth-ranked Concordia team, the team has remained unbeaten in head-to-head matches.

A fifth-place finish at the rainy Carmel Invitational added to the team's resume, when out of all of the skilled teams competing, the Homestead team placed just one point behind the fourth place team.

"I thought we did really well for the amount of talented teams that were at the [Carmel Invitational]," Suzie Reecer (12) said. "I think we could have done better had it not been for the rain shortening each of our sets, but we definitely played well."

The return of number one singles player Johnson, who missed the first three head-to-head matches, was also a prominent factor. Johnson finished with a 2-1 record in Carmel, losing only to Carmel's number one singles player.

"Having Macy back has helped out a lot and made our team even better," Overlander said. "She missed the first couple of matches early on, but she's played really well since."

This past weekend, the girls' team continued their early season tear by finishing second in the Merrillville Invitational. The team placed second only to Carmel, finishing ahead of Terre Haute North, ranked sixth in their respective district.

"The Merrillville Invitational helped us out a lot with our confidence," Johnson said. "The teams were really good there, and to finish second and have a lot of individuals place well shows that we can beat the better teams heading into the rest of the season."

Johnson continued her dominance over the school's number one singles players by finishing first overall in Merrillville. Rajchel and Vessels finished with two wins and one loss in number one doubles.

Much of the team's success during the rest of the season will weigh upon whether or not they can beat area rivals Canterbury and Carroll. The two teams are ranked third and fourth, respectively, in district two.

Fundraising door to door nuisance for all

Last week, I rode my bike for the first and only time this year. That can only mean one thing: door-to-door fundraising. As I rode my bike up and down the streets, getting queer looks from neighbors as I smashed my knees on the handlebars and hoping to make a sale to an unsuspecting housewife, I came to a realization. Not only do I need a bigger bike, but there has to be a better way to raise money for the Athletic Booosters.

As a part of the baseball team, I was essentially required to sell ten Coventry Autowash Carwash Coupons. The cards were a good deal, but selling them is like trying to sell an umbrella to the weatherman. To no surprise, I sold the majority of my cards within the last three days of the deadline, making for quite an exciting weekend and an exhilarating Sunday afternoon. Trust me, I'll never forget some of the responses I got, positive or negative. I hope my tips can help future sellers who get in a tight spot.

Cup of Joe

By Joe Hanauer
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

There's a strategy in this, and I'm glad I realized it early. I decided to go to the richest neighborhood within biking distance from my house. Seriously, they're so rich that they can't say no to a $20 car wash card! And on a side note, the housewives can't say no. I barely got my Mad Lib of a business proposal out of my mouth before they were reaching for their purse.

It was fairly easy selling them there, but having generally heard that they get their cars washed at Mike's, I understand. What I don't understand is the lady who left me at the front-door for 15 minutes while she talked on the phone and the kids who shot AirSoft guns at me as I left their driveway.

After leaving the neighborhood that gives Homestead its 'rich kid' stereotype, I had only sold three cards. I needed to take my business elsewhere, and where else would I pick? None other than Scott's Grocery. I heard that Brian Landrigan sold 26 cards in two hours there the day before, so figured I could sell my seven cards after lunch and be back home in time for the Cubs game that afternoon. Yeah, lying to myself was the only way I was going to get this done. I got rid of another three cards at Scott's, one to a particularly kind Indian man, another to a former Homestead parent, and the other to... well, I don't remember.

After getting kicked out of Scott's, I darted over to Kroger, got rid of another card, got kicked out again, and decided to head home. The biggest difference between going door-to-door and selling outside of the grocery store was making eye contact. The split-second we locked eyes, I feel like I could have sold the thing for $50 and they still would have bought it.

At this point, I only have to sell three more cards, and I finally decide to start selling in my own neighborhood. The sun is finally starting to fall, it's about 3:30, the Cubs game should be over at 4:30, and I'm starting to feel the pressure as I try to get rid of $60 worth of car wash cards.

I hit a streak of luck, I sold two cards to another two neighbors don't wave at me as I drive by each morning. The end was definitely in sight. I developed a new strategy of putting the card directly in the person's hand as soon as they opened the door, unfortunately, most people didn't feel like putting $20 back in my hand as I left.

I'm starting to get desperate now. I break down and start ringing the doors of the elderly, only hoping that they'll buy one of these darned pieces of plastic out of pure pity. This is how the sale of my final card went down: "Would you like to buy...(insert sales pitch that progressively gets worse as the day goes on)?", old lady responds, "Well, they messed up my car last time, I'll ask my husband," old lady asks old husband, old lady returns and says, "He says he'll take one, but he wasn't really paying attention, the Cubs game is in overtime". For the love of God, please buy this card so I can go home and catch the end of the Cubs game. With a bit of sweet-talking, she buys the last card. I don't think I've ever ridden my bike faster than I did that Sunday.

But the most memorable part of the day happened back in the neighborhood where I had been earlier in the day. I rang the guy's doorbell, and as I'm standing there waiting for him, he pulls up right behind me in his car. Awesome. I mean, at least this won't be awkward. I try my best to get him to buy a card. But I'll never forget what he said after my proposition: "Well, honestly, not really." I half-calmly and half-jokingly responded, "Sir, I think that's the most honest answer I've gotten all day, thank you." It really was. Not once did I feel one bit of enthusiasm from the people I sold cards to. Sure, you get the car wash's satisfaction, but I think people get more satisfaction out of knowing that they supported the Athletic Program.

I literally made it home seconds after the game ended. The Cubs lost 2-3 in 10 innings. Needless to say, it was a pretty good Sunday.

Spring break trip more than training

Team bonding in Tennessee contributes to varsity baseball's early success

By Blake Johnson
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The varsity baseball team has begun their season with great success. The team has an overall record of eight wins and just one loss against a tough Huntington North team.

The team kicked off their season with a spring training trip to Memphis, Tennessee over Spring Break. While in Tennessee, the boys played a game against an out-of-state team. They also spent time getting to know each other with team-building activities. Team camaraderie has been vital to the Spartans' success.

"The trip to Memphis was pretty cool. The team just came together and built a band that can never be broken," Jake Weber (10) said. "At first I was a lone wolf, but then the rest of the team came along and now we're a true pack. The thing that made the Tennessee trip fun was how we all messed around with each other in the hotel rooms."

When the team members returned from their training trip, they played their first regular season game against North Side. The Spartans dominated North Side 11-1. The next day, the Spartans destroyed the South Side Archers 17-3. On April 9th, Homestead played a double header against Walker Valley High School. The Spartans won the first game 12-4 and the second game 7-2. On April 12th, Homestead easily hammered Marion, winning the game 10-0. The Spartans played Bishop Dwenger at Shoaff Park the following week. With the help of John Killham (12), who pounded a three-run home run, Homestead defeated the Saints 6-1. Homestead then went on to beat Manchester 5-2 and Blackhawk Christian 16-8 in the next two games.

After an impressive 8-0 start, the Spartans went to Huntington North's home field and were beaten after what would prove to be the toughest game of the season with a final score of 6-0.

"We just kind of got caught off guard against Huntington North. They got up on us early and we were never able to make a comeback," said center fielder Ryan Hosler (12). "We dug ourselves into a hole and before we knew it, it was too deep to climb out of."

Homestead will use the scoreless loss as motivation for the rest of the season. The team will not play Huntington North again in the regular season, but Homestead and Huntington North will more than likely meet somewhere in the sectional tournament.

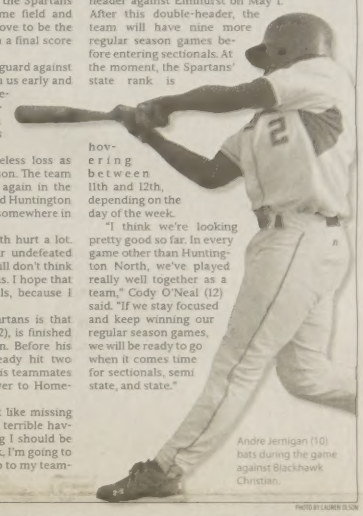
"That loss to Huntington North hurt a lot. It's a bummer that it ruined our undefeated season," said Austin Wilburn. "I still don't think that they are a better team than us. I hope that we play them again in sectionals, because I know that we can beat them."

Some good news for the Spartans is that starting catcher, John Killham (12), is finished serving his two-game suspension. Before his suspension, the senior had already hit two home runs. Now that he's back, his teammates hope that he can add more power to Homestead's lineup.

"Missing those two games felt like missing ten games," Killham said. "It was terrible having to sit out and watch, knowing I should be out on the field. Now that I'm back, I'm going to play my best to try and make it up to my teammates."

The Spartans' next game will be a double-header against Elmhurst on May 1. After this double-header, the team will have nine more regular season games before entering sectionals. At the moment, the Spartans' state rank is hovering between 11th and 12th, depending on the day of the week.

"I think we're looking pretty good so far. In every game other than Huntington North, we've played really well together as a team," Cody O'Neal (12) said. "If we stay focused and keep winning our regular season games, we will be ready to go when it comes time for sectionals, semi state, and state."



Andre Jernigan (10) bats during the game against Blackhawk Christian.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

the NEXT240

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY ALLISON BAER

The Next 240 highlights things to do, ways to cope and methods to survive the next two stressful AP exam weeks. Reviews of current movies like "The Losers," "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and "Kick-Ass" are here, as well as tips for studying and ways to unwind once you have finished. The Spartana wishes all students the best of luck on their exams and hopes that the study time pays off. Use these 240 hours until Advanced Placement tests are over wisely.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

Cracking the AP* STRESS

By Molly Zweig, Adrienne Westenfeld and Laura Zweig
Feature Editor, Life Editor and Writer • staff@thespartana.net

This year at Homestead, 447 students will take 740 Advanced Placement exams, tests that, if the student earns a high enough score, have the potential to qualify the student for college credit. Due to Indiana's recent law, which requires state universities to give credit to students who earn a score of three or higher on any AP test and takes effect beginning in 2011, new pressure is added to an already stressful situation. With two days of testing underway, the majority of students, most of whom are taking AP tests in Literature and Composition and U.S. History, are still cramming for the exams.

I How to crack stress before the test

The pressure of AP tests can be suffocating, but the key is to be confident and prepared even when overwhelmed.

While last minute preparations range from cramming to carbo-loading, the most important thing is to study. Though it is a tedious activity, studying can energize students to give themselves little rewards as motivation.

"I'm studying intensely, and after every five minutes of studying, I'm taking a snack break because I deserve it," Katherine Troutman (9), AP World History student, said.

"Before and after school every day, I go to review sessions with Mr. Schmidt," Becca Brown (10), AP U.S. History student, said.

"I'm reading my review book," Emily Salzmann (10) said.

As the days dwindle, time management is just as important. Is watching a rerun of "Arrested Development" the best use of time? Crack open the review book instead.

Additionally, ask around to see what advice other students have. If a friend's best advice is to create themed playlists for every day of AP testing, a teacher may be a better resource.

"First and foremost, stay engaged in the classroom," Amy Hamilton, guidance counselor, said, "and [most importantly], get a good night's sleep and good breakfast."

II Cracking test day

It's the big day. Students are as ready as ever, and now it's time to prove it. To ensure maximum efficiency on test day, students need to be properly prepared.

Tests begin at 8 a.m. or 12 p.m., so plan on arriving at the designated testing location thirty minutes early. Students should bring proper writing utensils and, if they desire, silent timers.

In addition to the standard tips, some students have lucky items to bring to the test. Emily Rapoza (11) has lucky socks she wears to give her a boost of confidence.

"I ended up wearing them to the AP World History test and I thought I was going to fail that exam," she said, "and I ended up passing." Rapoza wore the socks again last year, and intends to wear them for the third time at her AP Government exam.

Students may also want to partake in a recent student development of including phrases to make AP graders laugh. In previous years, "This is Sparta" and "Why So Serious?" were included and crossed out by a single line, deeming the remark off-limits to graders. This year's prank, is for students to write, "Yo, AP Reader, imma (sic) let you finish, but..." is modeled after Kanye West's infamous interruption.

III Post-test rewards

While it is important to remember that dedication to academics cannot be relinquished as long as finals linger on the imminent horizon, the conclusion of AP exams is more than enough reason to treat oneself to a celebration, whether it be a shopping spree or ice cream.

> "My last exam is on Friday, so I'm going to go see Iron Man 2. It will be a nice reward for all the hard work."
>
> **ANNA STONE (11)**
> *AP Test Taker*

"My last exam is on Friday, so I'm going to go see Iron Man 2," Anna Stone (11) said. "It will be a nice reward for all the hard work."

For like-minded students who look to reward themselves with the silver screen for their test-taking success, Iron Man 2 is not the only option awaiting them. The two-week duration of the AP exams also includes the releases of "Robin Hood," "Letters to Juliet" and "Mother and Child."

One need not wait until the evening to de-stress, however. For those students who seek a more instant type of gratification, Steak 'N Shake boasts a "Happy Hour" from 2-4 p.m. daily, during which all milkshakes are half-price. What could be a better comfort food than inexpensive ice cream?

Surviving AP week can be considered something of a personal victory. Be sure to take the time to reward it.

IV Where the tests go

After the final bubble is filled and the last sentence is scribbled, AP exams are whisked away to Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio for grading. Even though students have finished their hard work, graders begin the task of scoring over one million essays.

High school and college educators in the AP subjects assess free-response questions at AP Grading Camp, a week-long and compensated grading extravaganza. Education Testing Service first trains them to how to read the answers. Scoring is based on rubrics, and readers are evaluated to check for consistency.

"[We] do what are known as syn checks," Dr. Nancy Virtue, a French professor at IPFW and AP French grader, said. "They make us re-grade an essay... to see if we would give it the same grade twice." Virtue also said that group grading also occurs to further check the accuracy of the graders.

Free-response grading concludes June 18, at which point students' final scores are calculated using a difficult formula that accounts for the multiple-choice sections as well. Students receive their scores on a scale from one to five in the mail in July.

Q&A

Are the AP tests worth the stress when you get to college?

"Doing well on an AP exam can give you a lot of confidence and make you realize how much you have learned."
Grace Lundergan ('07)

"I ended up doing well on the tests and as a result didn't have to take two freshmen level classes in college. That saved a lot of time and gave me an opportunity to take other classes that were more relevant to my field of study sooner."
Kristen Witham ('08)

"[...]the experience of studying for a long exam helps you prepare for the next four years after high school. Because guaranteed there will be stressful times in college over either a test, project, or final and the more you learn how to manage your time and study habits, the better you will mostly likely do overall."
Arezoo Nazari ('09)

"I took a lot of exams, which I think helped me learn to prepare for college style exams, which typically cover a broader range of topics."
Jessica Skiba ('07)

"In terms of registration priority each semester, exemption from intro courses and the ability to add majors, minors or certificates with ease, they're valuable."
Brad Lufkin ('09)

"Four weeks ago my group fell a tragic three minutes short of getting bid on a the five person house of our dreams. Alas, my group managed to pick up three other homeless stragglers and win possession of an eight person house [...]. This victory provided by a combined total of 50 AP credit hours that made the other groups look completely defenseless."
Erin Quinn ('08)

"I can think of no reason I would tell someone not to take an AP class; even without the help they give later, you feel so much more accomplished and prepared after taking them."
Katie Romelfanger ('07)

PHOTO BY BEN MARESH

TAKE THREE

NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET Rated R
Rave

Freddy Krueger, seemingly asleep since 2003's "Freddy vs. Jason," has been resurrected to once again haunt the dreams of teenagers in "A Nightmare on Elm Street." The film is a remake of the 1984 original. The premise is familiar: Krueger, a badly burned man with knives on his fingers, appears in the nightmares of Springwood adolescents. If Freddy kills them in their dreams, they die in reality.

The original "Nightmare" was one of the most unique horror movies of its time and works well as a remake today. The dream sequences are interwoven throughout the film and help to blur the line between being asleep and awake. Director Michael Bay has helped to make the film an impressive spectacle, and the death scenes are truly gruesome. However, while "Nightmare" is suspenseful at times, it is unlikely to haunt the dreams of its viewers.

"A Nightmare on Elm Street" is not for the faint of heart, but it remains a fun retread of the original.
– Taylor Thompson

RATINGS:

RAVE: This movie is highly recommended. It is worth $8.50, stadium seating and viewing on the silver screen. See this movie as soon as possible.

THE LOSERS Rated R
Redbox

Chris Evans, Columbus Short, Idris Elba, Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Oscar Jaenada are a group of CIA agents forced to go on a mission in Bolivia "under cover" without permission from the government of Bolivia.

Max is an evil super-villain who could care less about Bolivia or its orphans. His primary mission is to make tons of money and spend it on taking over the world.

The movie starts with the 5 CIA agents rescue 25 Bolivian orphans. What happens next is what ruins the movie for me; all of the children die when the helicopter, which is meant to be carrying the CIA agents, is gunned down. The US government and all others believe that the agents have been killed, while they are actually just passing time in Bolivian.

It is hard to say anything good about the movie The Losers. It was packed full of action, blood and gore. These were the only things that kept the movie watchable, and still half of the theatre had left after about thirty minutes, as the movie was poorly constructed and lacked a riveting plot. *- Nathan Berning*

COVENTRY 13: No longer costs $1.00 and 50-cent Tuesdays are a thing of the past, this movie is worth seeing on the big screen for $4.00.

REDBOX: Don't rush out to see this movie. It's probably not worth more than a dollar. Grab a few friends and stop by the local Redbox to pick up this flick.

KICK-ASS Rated R
Rave

"Kick-Ass" features average high-school student Dave Lizewski, played by Aaron Johnson, who faces a complex question: why aren't there any real-life superheroes? Intrigued by the idea, Lizewski dons a scuba suit and becomes Kick-Ass, a vigilante who proceeds to fight crime in a city overrun with corruption and deceit. However, having obtained fame nearly overnight, Kick-Ass soon finds himself in over his head. At this time, he meets Hit Girl and Big Daddy (Nicolas Cage), a daughter-father duo whose goal is to take down and vanquish organized crime in their city.

With the flood of comic book movie releases these days, it is refreshing to see a movie like "Kick-Ass" that deviates from the norm. Rather than targeting the PG-13 audience, "Kick-Ass" utilizes graphic language and intense violence to appeal to an older audience that is more likely to be familiar with the movie's graphic novel counterpart from Marvel Comics.

"Kick-Ass" is a satisfying story told in a unique way and should not be missed. – *Taylor Thompson*

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Homestead graduate Alex Tordi ('08) will be playing an extra on upcoming episodes of television shows "Glee" and "CSI." 2A

LIFE
The Pokemon phenomenon of the 1990s is reemerging in the most unlikely of locations — the high school classroom. 5A

FEATURE
Spartan alumni share the professional endeavors they pursued after graduating from a certain Fort Wayne high school. 8A

OPINION
The rampancy of text-messaging may have devastating effects on the formality of the English language. 3A

SPORTS
The club rugby team recently completed a brief seven-game season, complete with twice-a-week practices. 6A

ONLINE
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New state-wide mandate conflicts with half-day tradition

SENIOR DAY EVENTS

- Breakfast
- Senior Variety Show
- Game
- Lunch
- Sixth Period
- Seventh Period

Left: Scott Jarmus (12) will perform at the Variety Show.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Senior Activities Day sparks concern among parents, administrators

By Priya Parikh
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The state-wide mandate that eliminated half-days from Indiana schools conflicts with Homestead's tradition of Senior Activities Day, and some students and parents are less than pleased. Although the administration has worked toward a solution, seniors will likely have to return to class after the morning activities are over.

The new state-wide mandate states that Indiana schools are no longer allowed to have half days and must instead have 180 full school days. Pushed by Governor Mitch Daniels and Superintendent of Schools Tony Bennett, the goal of the mandate was to keep kids in school and limit weather delays. Now, however, parents and administrators are raising concerns about privileges being taken away, especially in the case of Senior Activities Day.

180
full days are now required in Indiana public schools through a new state-wide mandate.

In the past, toward the end of the school year, seniors were given a half day to kick back and relax before finals. Seniors have traditionally spent the morning enjoying breakfast in the cafeteria, participating in activities and performing in or watching the senior variety show in the auditorium. After having lunch in the auxiliary gym around noon, seniors would

SEE 'SENIOR ACTIVITY DAY,' PAGE 2A

[2010-2011 Student Government Elections]

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Newly elected hope to continue student government strengths, implement desired changes

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

By Laura Zeng
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Student Government will undergo additions and changes for the 2010-2011 school year. The group hopes to instill positive changes with a new executive board and a new advisor while still retaining what currently works in Student Government.

The new executive board was recently voted upon among the members of Student Government. Anuj Khemka (11) will be president, Sahand Emamian (10) will be vice president, Corey Davis (10) will be secretary, Frankie Zirille (10) will be treasurer and Lauren Purlee (10) will be the public relations officer. However, it remains unclear who will become the new faculty advisor once April Moss, Economics teacher, steps down.

> "I ran because I saw how Student Government was run before, and I wanted to keep the good things, but at the same time change the things that didn't work."
>
> **ANUJ KHEMKA (11)**
> *Future Executive Board President*

As president, Khemka will be in charge of organizing Student Government-sponsored events such as Semi-formal, Prom, MORP, pep sessions, the Mr. Spartan pageant and various charity projects. Khemka has been in Student Government since his freshman year.

"I ran because I saw how Student Government was run before, and I wanted to keep the good things, but at the same time change the things that didn't work," Khemka said. "I thought it would be a great opportunity to show my leadership skills and I knew that I'd have a fun time."

Emamian's role in Student Government will be "to... keep track of what is going on in Student Government." Emamian has been in Student Government since freshman year, but has not served on the executive board before. He encourages students to interact more with Student Government, saying that "suggestions and ideas are more than welcome."

"I ran because I felt that I will be able to do some good in the next school year," Emamian said. "I hope to create a more efficient Student Government that is able to work at the tasks at hand. I would change the methods of delegating jobs, but I will definitely want to keep the camaraderie."

Davis, as the secretary of next year's board, hopes to solve problems that arose this year such as the senior parking lot controversy as well as the rest of the senior activities. His overall goal is to keep Student Government running as smoothly as possible. Davis has been

CLASS OFFICIALS

Senior President
Joanna Ngyen

Junior President
Michael Bienz

Sophomore President
Jack Hagedorn

Freshman President
Summit: Undecided
Woodside: Maggie Reecer

Above: The Student Government Executive Board for the 2010-2011 school year consists of Public Relations officer Lauren Purlee (10), president Anuj Khemka (11), treasurer Frankie Zirille (10), secretary Corey Davis (10) and vice president Sahand Emamian (10) (not pictured.).

ADVISORY ANXIETY

Staff advisory survey reveals mixed feelings

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The feedback report for an advisory-related survey administered to faculty in 2009 finally surfaced last week – or last month, depending on who's being asked.

The survey, given to teachers in December 2009, was part of a larger faculty assessment that aimed to evaluate the efficacy of the Smaller Learning Community program.

While the date on the report indicates the school received the feedback on Feb. 1, teachers were not formally notified to access the results until last week.

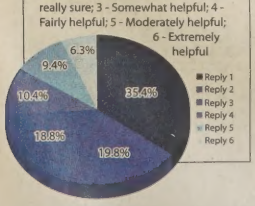
"I was told via a communication from our union rep that the results were available on the V-drive of our school network," Spanish teacher Toiyonna Arias said.

Members of the Southwest Allen County Teachers' Association (SACTA) made

SEE 'STAFF SURVEY,' PAGE 2A

FEEDBACK SAMPLE

▶ **Question:** How helpful are advisory groups to the students? ▶ **Possible Replies:** 1 - Not very helpful; 2 - Not really sure; 3 - Somewhat helpful; 4 - Fairly helpful; 5 - Moderately helpful; 6 - Extremely helpful



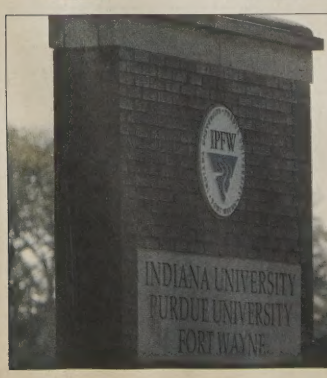


PHOTO BY SUZIE REESER

College-bound seniors opt for in-state tuition above location

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

When the top five ranked students at Homestead were asked about their future plans, it came as a bit of a shock that all but one were looking at in state schools. While Indiana University and Purdue University are certainly not Ivy Tech, for students capable of getting into Vanderbilt and Northwestern, this raises some eyebrows. A little probing and the answer to why many capable students are going to state schools is very clear, and it all comes down to the money.

Though it'd be nice to think about colleges in an ideal way where money was no factor and every bright student could go to the school of their choice, the face is most families, even upper middle class families, can't swing the astronomical $50,000 for undergrad. Add siblings in school at the same time and then graduate school on top, and it's a wonder that any families can afford such schools. Although student loans are always an option, the thought of paying off loans until well into ones career is not an attractive option either.

This brings many students to seriously

SEE 'IN-STATE SCHOOLS,' PAGE 2A

BRIEFS

RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS
All library books need to be returned to the IMC by Wednesday, May 26 in order to avoid being fined for checked out materials.

TIN CAPS TICKETS
Tickets for tomorrows Tin Caps baseball game are availiable through NAND. Tickets are $5 and sold on a first come first serve basis. Each ticket comes with $5 in Tin Cash to spend at the ball park. The game begins at 7:05 p.m. and will end with a fireworks display.

ANIME CLUB ELECTION
The last Anime Club meeting of the school year is May 24 in the library. Elections will be held for next year's leadership positions.

DANCE TEAM TRYOUTS
Dance team tryouts will take place May 24, 25, and 26. Stop by the dance room to pick up an information flyer.

SPANISH CLUB
The last Spanish Club meeting will be held after school on May 26 in Mr. Peeper's room. Elections will be held for next schol year's President, Vice President, and Secretary.

CHOREOGRAPHER'S SHOWCASE
The Dance Department is hosting the Spring Show 2010 "Choreographer's Showcase" this evening at 6:30 p.m. and tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The show is choreographed and performed by the beginning, intermediate, and advanced dance students. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for grades 9-12 and senior citizens.

Annual black tie event memorable to upperclassmen

PHOTO BY BETH HUMER

Junior prom proves to be night under the 'stars' at Grand Wayne Center

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

For the past few weeks, the talk of the school has undeniably been everything Prom. Gossip about who was going with whom was traveling everywhere, and a student could hardly sit through a class period without overhearing two zealous giddy girls ask each other, "What color is your dress?"

Homestead held its Prom, themed "I Promise You the Stars," at the Grand Wayne Center on Saturday, May 15. From 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., the dance floor filled with students ready to show off their flashy tuxedos and overpriced hairdos. While the music may have not satisfied the majority of students who were ready to get their freak on, Prom was a fun way to celebrate the upcoming end of the school year for juniors, seniors and the underclassmen lucky enough to be invited.

It is no secret that students attending Prom invest quite a bit of time and money in the endeavor. Though the dance is free for seniors, the $20 tickets for juniors are just the tip of the iceberg as far as expenses go. Dresses, tuxes, dinner, shoes, hair, makeup, boutonnieres and corsages can quickly add to make Prom night cost hundreds. Add in a rented limo or a unique way to ask a date, and that amount can quickly double.

For as much effort as is put into Prom by the students who attend, the faces behind

SEE 'PROM,' PAGE 2A

Left: Audrey Armstrong (11) and Kodi Mullins (11) were crowned Prom queen and king.

▸▸INSTATE SCHOOLS CONTINUED FROM 1A

consider the option of running the risk of a rowdy roommate and heading off to the flagship state school. And though Indiana has two, IU and Purdue, all four of these students staying in state have landed on IU. Kelly Miller (12), Sarah Kusisto (12), Celia Grundman (12), and Sonya Joseph (12) are all planning to head to Bloomington next fall not only for its notably gorgeous campus, but for the many opportunities that a large school will provide at a much lower price.

"Money was probably the deciding factor for me when I chose IU," first ranked Miller said. "My choices were either spend 50,000 dollars a year at Vanderbilt or Northwestern or spend less than 1,000 dollars a year at IU."

Because schools like IU and Purdue want to attract bright students like Miller, both offer automatic scholarship packages to all incoming students who meet the requirement of very high standardized test scores and GPA, without an additional scholarship application. Coupled with additional honors college and merit based scholarships that can also be applied for, high-achieving students usually end up paying very little for an excellent education at a state school.

"I had really great scholarships [at IU] that were hard to turn down," fifth ranked Joseph said. "Although I would have loved to go to Northwestern, the pre-med program at IU is also excellent and I want to stay close to my family."

Looking at keeping costs down is especially important when considering eventually going to graduate school. Whether it be law school or getting a PhD, the fewer loans one has coming out of undergrad, the less it will accumulate.

"I'm planning on going to medical school, which is obviously expensive, so I figured it would be more practical to save money now during my undergraduate years," Miller said.

Still, with all of their merits, some students simply can't get around the idea of homogeneousness of IU and Purdue, and seeing their high school classmates every day. Students who wish to get away might have to look a bit harder, but finding an affordable college out of state is not impossible.

"I decided I wanted to go to The University of Arkansas because I wanted to have a new chapter of my life in a different place," Emily Seward (12) said. "A lot of people go to IU, Purdue, or BSU and I just wanted to go somewhere that I didn't know anyone. Arkansas is a very affordable college, it has a lot of scholarships that you can apply for. It is only about $2,000 for tuition than it is for an Indiana student to go to IU so there was really no financial problems."

In the end, it's about finding an affordable college that fits each individual student. While it might mean staying a Hoosier a little longer, in the end, the experience will be whatever these students will make of it.

"If finances weren't a factor, I probably would have chosen to go to Vanderbilt," Miller said. "Still, I'm happy with my choice to enroll at IU."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Seniors often accept scholarships to in-state schools such as IPFW for better financial aid.

▸▸STAFF SURVEY CONTINUED FROM 1A

multiple requests for the results of the report but were delayed several times, not formally being made aware of the existence of the results until May 10, according to an e-mail sent from SACTA to teachers.

Despite the association's belief that the release of the survey's results was delayed, members of the school administration deny any such postponement.

"The results of the survey were put on the V-drive with other advisory notes at least a month ago," Barbara Csicsko, Smaller Learning Community coordinator, said.

The staff advisory survey results were last modified April 16, roughly one month ago, according to the SACS network interface. This date of most recent revision, however, does not necessarily indicate that that was the exact day the document was uploaded.

While the exact time the results were released is a point of disagreement, the consensus of the feedback report ranges from hesitantly critical to bluntly negative.

"I know of 20 wonderful teachers at HHS who are seriously considering retiring early or leaving the teaching profession because they are sick and tired of the garbage we are now required to do which was envisioned by a micro-manager principal who has no idea of what we do," one teacher said in response to the survey.

Other teachers replied with more moderate evaluations of the initiative, speaking positively of the program, just not its implementation.

"Advisory groups might be a good idea in theory, but they are not being implemented with any type of end-goal in mind," another survey respondent wrote.

In addition to the open-ended responses, there were also quantitative questions in the survey, with possible responses ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." The responses to these questions were also primarily negative.

More than half of teachers disagreed or strongly disagreed that advisers were provided with adequate training, and more than half did not believe the advisory program served student and school needs.

Although the results of the survey show that teachers do not believe advisory is making a positive impact, administrators in charge of advisory still hold out hope for the program.

"There have been connections made between students and teachers that could not have been made without advisory," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay, head of the advisory design committee, said.

The purpose of advisory is to create a "smaller learning community" at Homestead. This is required of schools receiving the Smaller Learning Community grant from the Department of Education, which "awards discretionary grants to local educational agencies to support the implementation of SLCs in large public high schools with enrollments of 1,000 or more students," according to the Department of Education's website.

Students seem to agree with the views held in the survey more than they agree with the views held by the administrators, and were officially given their chance to voice their opinions on May 20 through a survey distributed in advisory.

"Advisory was created in such a hurried and haphazard way that no students or teachers could input their thoughts," Reid Kloster (11) said.

Regardless of the opinions of advisory participants, the program will continue, according to Csicsko.

"The reason that we are collecting the feedback – first from teachers and now from students – is that [advisory] is not going away," she added.

▸▸PROM CONTINUED FROM 1A

Prom are the ones who make the evening a success. Student Government members work hard to organize all of the details behind hosting an even that attracts and entertains hundreds of students.

"Prom takes forever to plan!" Student Government member and Prom coordinator Mandy Sherer (11) said. "Because there are so many little details that go into Prom, we have to start planning about two weeks before spring break... The entire junior class helps to plan prom. We also have the seniors help to come up with ideas, but ultimately it is up to the junior class to decide what happens at Prom."

To ensure the safety of everyone at Prom, teachers and administrators chaperoned the dance, and resource officers were present to make sure nothing got out of hand. Students were randomly breathalyzed upon entering the dance, an event that has become routine for Homestead dances.

While random breathalyzer tests are a relatively new tradition for Prom, the announcement of the Prom King and Queen is a longstanding tradition that still draws attraction. The court was nominated by the junior class and consisted of eight junior boys and eight junior girls.

Audrey Armstrong (11) and Kodi Mullins (11) were voted to be King and Queen by their peers. Armstrong and Mullins, however, are not the stereotypical superficial King and Queen. Both students are not only extraordinarily active in their school and the community but have won the respect of others through their kindness and character. Armstrong is a member of show choir at school and is active in her church. Mullins is on Student Government, runs varsity cross country and track and does mission work.

"It was a great honor to be voted by my peers and it really meant a lot to me," Mullins said. "I was very surprised to be chosen as Prom King, considering all the guys on prom court deserved it."

Armstrong was also surprised to win, especially considering that she would likely not have gone to Prom had she not been on court.

"I had no intention of going to Prom, and then when I heard my name on the announcements, of course I was excited, but I was also kind of overwhelmed that I had two weeks to get ready for something people had been planning for months," Armstrong said. "When I heard my name called as Prom queen, I was actually relieved."

For the seniors, Prom was their last dance at Homestead. While many seniors are ready to graduate and to start the next chapters in their lives, Prom was a special memory of the end of high school.

"I would have to say that looking back on Prom is bittersweet," Kevin Wunderlin (12) said. "I'm excited to be moving on and going to college, but I'm going to miss everyone that I'm leaving behind."

▸▸SENIOR ACTIVITIES DAY CONTINUED FROM 1A

leave for the day.

Due to the new mandate, the controversy over Senior Activities Day has increased.

This year, most of the traditional activities will be included, but seniors may be required to go back to classes for a portion of the day unless they have an excused absence.

Parents, students and administrators have voiced their opinions on the possible change through emails to the school expressing their dislike for the new rules.

"I was shocked because I have had two kids go through Senior Activity Days, and I tried my hardest to reason into having a half day," Ellen Pyle, parent volunteer, said. "It's not their fault or ours, so we're going to try our best to make it work. It's still Senior Activity Day and we're going to make it wonderful."

As a result of emails from upset parents, a few administrators recently convened with parents and student government members to discuss what the plans for Senior Activity Day are going to be this year.

"We tried everything," Jennifer Bay, assistant principal, said. "I asked if we could do a late arrival, if we could just start a couple hours later, and then have a later lunch, and that is when I got the answer that we cannot do any delays unless it is weather related. We also talked about possibly having students go to first and second periods and then come to senior activities later, so that may be an option for future years."

No one is more upset about the changes than the seniors.

"We found out probably about a month ago that it would no longer be a half day," Ashley Meruani (12), Student Government executive board vice president, said. "I thought it was incredibly upsetting that we could not have a half day, when I'd seen class after class get a half day on Senior Activities Day."

Student Government has been active in seeking a solution and is determined not to let the new rule take away the tradition of Senior Activities Day.

"Student Government is not going to let these new rules ruin a tradition at Homestead," Quinn Brenneke, Student Government president, said. "We will still do our best to plan a great day for the seniors. They have worked so hard for four years and we want to congratulate them on a job well done. The class of 2010 is a great group of kids, and I know that we will all be able to have a lot of fun on Senior Activities Day, regardless of the circumstances."

▸▸STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUED FROM 1A

n Student Government since freshman year.

"I wanted to be more involved with the school and to be a part of something that I would be able to apply [to] the real world," Davis said. "[I also wanted] an open Student Government where we get things done more efficiently and to a higher standard."

> "I wanted to be more involved with the school and to be a part of something that I would be able to apply [to] the real world. [I also wanted] an open Student Government where we get things done more efficiently and to a higher standard."
>
> **CORY DAVIS (10)**
> *Executive Board Secretary*

Zirille, next year's treasurer, will be in charge of the Student Government for "dances, charities, and money distribution throughout the school for clubs and such." Zirille has also been in Student Government since freshman year, but next year will be his first time serving on the board.

"I would like to increase school spirit and the amount of money our school raises for charities," Zirille said of his hopes for next year. "One thing that we are working on is changing the parking situation, and we will see where that is next year."

As the public relations officer, Purlee said she will be handling correspondence with those outside of Student Government. She joined Student Government as a sophomore and has never been on the executive board.

"I ran for executive board because I want to get more involved," Purlee said. "Next year on the executive board, I hope to help keep Student Government running smoothly and make it even more efficient."

In addition to a new executive board, Student Government will also have a new advisor. Moss says that after five years as the Student Government advisor, she is ready to "step aside and let someone else take over."

Although there have been rumors of who will take over her position, Moss maintains that she is unsure who will step in to fill her position.

Despite the changes in Student Government, the group's main goal is still to make progress in the school.

"I want...Student Government to be [more] influential than it has been in the past three years when it comes to making decisions with the administration," Khemka said. "...I am going to change a few systems so planning isn't as chaotic or confusing... [and] what I'm going to continue [doing] is making everyone in Student Government feel connected."

Earthfest celebrates music, enviornment

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • staff@thespartana.net

As time has proceeded, people have become more and more conscious of the consequences of pollution. People have "gone green," as it is called, by trying to find more efficient and less wasteful ways of accomplishing tasks. Homestead's Earthfest was held in the courtyard on Thursday, May 20 as a way to celebrate the communion of music and earth.

The head chair of this year's Earthfest Committee, Lauren Purlee (10), said there is a distinct message behind the event.

"We can be good to the Earth and still have fun at the same time," Purlee said.

Earthfest is an event in which numerous music acts perform every year and students gather to listen. This year, several different groups provided refreshments and other assorted goods to benefit the different school organizations they represent.

"The Darkroom [served] drinks and snacks, and the Backroom [sold] candy," Purlee said. "Plus, STAND [sold] bracelets."

Every year, the musicians provide entertainment at an event with a feel-good message behind it. This year's artists decide to perform for various reasons.

"[I decided to perform because] I performed last year, and it was really fun," Gabrielle Tatara (11) said. "I love to perform so I'll take any opportunity. I [was] really excited because I love putting my music out there, but more than that, it is always a thrill for me just to play my music, and it's the best thing to have somebody like my sister singing harmony to really build up the song."

Tatara's moving songs have inspired others to perform at Earthfest as well.

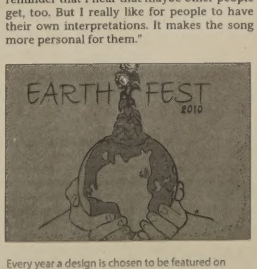
"Gabrielle Tatara got me interested in performing," Martina Marmai (12) said. "She had already performed there and said it was fun. Besides, all the people in Acoustic Club and other friends encouraged me to play, too."

The performers, like the event itself, have meaning in the music that they play. While it may not necessarily be inspired by the planet and the decision to "go green," the music almost always has heartfelt emotion behind it.

"I love to challenge and provoke the audience through the songs I pick, even though some may not like what I sing," Tatara said. "I think it's a risk worth taking."

Marmai also says she has meaning behind her words, and she hopes that her words hit home with the audience.

"Every song I write, I write it because it is some embodiment of what I think or feel," Marmai said. "So, sure there's a message or reminder that I hear that maybe other people get, too. But I really like for people to have their own interpretations. It makes the song more personal for them."



Every year a design is chosen to be featured on the Earthfest t-shirts that are sold during lunchbv student government as tickets into the event.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: A Homestead graduate is going to be in the "Glee" season finale.

Status: Fact. Homestead graduate Alex Tordi ('08) was cast and filmed as an extra for the season finale of FOX's new hit show "Glee." "Glee" is a musical sitcom that follows a fictional high school show choir as they struggle with stereotypes and try to prove themselves to their school. Tordi himself was a member of Class Royale when he attended Homestead.

Though the role of an extra is usually small, the community is excited to see Tordi as an audience member at the regional show choir competition in the season finale.

In addition to being cast as an extra in "Glee," Tordi was also recently cast as an extra in CBS's crime scene drama "CSI."

The episode of "CSI" in which Tordi was an extra has already aired on CBS, so Tordi has already experienced watching himself on the silver screen once before.

"I thought it was really cool seeing myself on TV and being able to buy the episode on iTunes," Tordi said.

Tordi was in California this past semester studying to be a theater major at California State College at Northridge when he signed to a casting agency that works with actors to get them jobs as extras. The agency has a hotline that actors can call to find information on what type of extras are needed. Tordi received information on both the "Glee" and "CSI" casting through the agency, and he submitted his name and phone number and was cast.

The season finale of "Glee" featuring Tordi as an extra will air on Tuesday, June 8 at 9 p.m. on FOX. *-Carrie Cummiskey*

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

NSPA The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association. To view the newspaper's editorial policy online, visit http://www.thespartana.net/?page_id=84/.

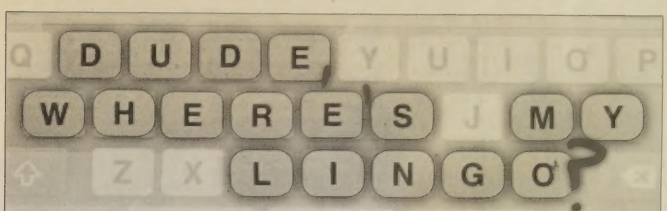
OPINION

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO: WWW.NYDAILYNEWS.COM

Opponents of Arizona Senate Bill 1070 demonstrate their dissent in front of the state House building in April. The politically polarizing legislation, which allows police officers to arrest immigrants on the spot if they cannot produce proper documentation, has been condemned as an unconstitutional invasion of privacy. The bill's Republican supporters, however, praise it as an aggressive advance on the state's out-of-control immigration problem.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]



Rampancy of texting cause of worry for rhetorical purists

BY CELIA GRUNDMAN
Opinion Editor • opinion@thespartana.net

When Timothy Leary said, "Turn on, tune in, drop out," he was referring to LSD, not LOL. And yet, the over-usage of texting by today's teens has nearly accomplished his catchphrase (albeit without the '60s goodness). More than just a danger behind the wheel anymore, communication technologies transform the very way in which we think.

For students, texting is now the main mode of communication; according to a recent study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, texting surpasses phone calls, social networking sites, instant messaging, and even face-to-face chatting. With one in three teens sending an average of 3,000 texts a month, consequences are inevitable – both good and bad.

Rapidly accumulating research supports the assertion that technology alters our brains. The malleability of the human mind has long been known, and tech-savvy youngsters – who not only text but frequent the interweb in all its informational overabundance – are reaping the results of the subsequent rewiring.

According to a study by UCLA neuroscientist Gary Small, these information-immersed teens acquire a greater working memory (short term information storage and retrieval), finer motor skills, and greater perceptual learning to better adapt to a constantly changing world than their older peers.

But, by tuning in to the tech we no longer tune in to the silent language of human expression, putting today's youth at a disadvantage. Mark Bauerlein, author of "The Dumbest Generation," writes of the cruciality of posture and other nonverbal cues in "imparting feelings, attitudes, reactions and judgments." Frankly, emoticons don't cut it, and we can't even focus on real emotions and people. The deluge of technology, from laptops to iPods to cell phones, has led to a state of "continuous partial attention," which Bauerlein notes has led some businesses to ban these devices from meetings altogether.

▶▶3,000

text messages per month are sent by one in three teens, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project. In contrast, the same report stated that the average adult sends 10 text messages per day.

Even Small, whose study revealed the positive outcomes of a tech-riddled society, has said that "as the brain evolves and shifts its focus towards new technological skills, it drifts away from fundamental social skills." Older generations who have not grown with the technology do not face such problems, and even "execute tasks more precisely" in a focused, step-by-step method.

As for the effect on linguistic skills, there are mixed reviews, but it is likely that text talk (BTW, G2G, CTC) will not significantly carry over into everyday lingo or even into academic writings, if at all (so no harm on that count). Linguistics professor Alex Bergs noted that the abbreviating habit, even among teenagers, soon falls out of practice.

As for Homestead, student texting is accomplished behind book bags, under desks, in bathrooms and during passing periods. But who is truly disadvantaged – children raised in the digital age or the generations that preceded them? There is no definite answer, but the need for moderation is clear. Turn off the cell once in a while, before your extensive social network threatens a drop in your social skills. Read a friend's face instead.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

'Self-righteous patriots' overly sensitive on flag-burning issue

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

There exists a litany of rules upon etiquette regarding the American flag: the flag shall not be folded, emblazoned upon disposable materials, permitted to come in contact with the ground, etc. The list is endless, and as it progresses, each condition becomes more ridiculous, debatable and blatantly trivial.

Cinco de Mayo controversy at California high school underscores tender subject

Flag-burning and flag desecration have a colorful history of legal controversy beginning with pornographer Larry Flynt in 1983, who was jailed for appearing in court while wearing the American flag as a diaper. While Flynt's incarceration likely resulted more from public indecency than from the flag, the fact remains that Flynt was entirely justified in his attire, as Texas v. Johnson (1989) and U.S. v. Eichman (1990) uphold desecration of the American flag as an entitled expression of symbolic free speech guaranteed under the First Amendment.

While it does symbolize a nation, the American flag is not a living, breathing thing, and it need not be venerated so much that citizens veritably walk on eggshells around it. If an American's sense of patriotism is so wholly rooted in a material object that he or she is willing to come to blows over it, then the violent rationale of that citizen can hardly be considered patriotism. There is nothing at all patriotic in attempting to curtail fundamental civil liberties due to antiquated procedures.

In another curtailing of free speech rights, five California students at a largely Mexican-American school were suspended on Cinco de Mayo when they refused to remove t-shirts bearing the emblem of the American flag on the day devoted to celebrating Mexican heritage. Such disciplinary action was entirely unconstitutional, as those students are guaranteed a right to free expression. The First Amendment is not only significant in one side of the flag debacle, but in the other – citizens have just as much right to wear the flag proudly as they do to burn it.

The right to burn a flag is constitutional and necessary; flag burning is an expression of political protest sure to catch the government's attention if all other methods of demonstration fail. Is the freedom to openly criticize the federal government not one of the civil liberties proclaimed fundamental in the wake of oppression by colonial Britain? How now, then, can the United States be so hypocritical as to contemplate laws suggesting that protests should only be permitted through safe and respectable avenues? The bottom line is that safe and respectable protests don't get the attention of the government. Flag burning certainly isn't tasteful, but nor is it dangerous; surely it is far better to protest by burning the symbol rather than burning the symbolized.

The Flag Code states that dilapidated flags are to be retired in a dignified manner (commonly through burning). As such, thousands of flags are honorably retired each year, whereas protestors, despite the fact that they are committing an identical act, are villanized by self-righteous "patriots." The only difference between the two scenarios lies in the rationale of the citizen burning the flag, and if laws are to be passed prohibiting "anti-American thought" in the form of flag burning, America is coming dangerously close to an Orwellian future.

UNLAWFUL ALIEN INVASION (OF PRIVACY)

Strident steps toward curbing illegal immigration defy liberties

BY CHRISSY VERHOFF
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Illegal immigration is a critical issue that must be dealt with; however, Arizona's strict and harsh new law goes too far in addressing it. The official title of "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act" is ironic considering the reality of its implications. The law, signed by Arizona governor Jan Brewer, requires immigrants to carry documentation with them at all times and requires police officers to request those documents from suspected illegal immigrants. An investigation for another crime must already be under way for a police officer to request immigration documents, and the officer must have "reasonable suspicion" before asking to see them. This "reasonable suspicion" can only refer to one observation – the individual's appearance or accent. Of course, in the past police officers have been accused of racial profiling, which makes this law so shocking. Rather than preventing discrimination through racial profiling, the law openly encourages its practice, and even allows onlookers to become involved. If an observer sees that an officer is not requesting documents from a possible illegal immigrant, that bystander has the power to litigate against the officer.

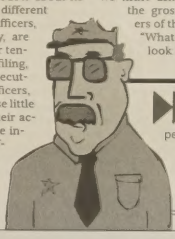
Protest against this law has taken a variety of forms, including a nationwide boycott of Arizona to send a message. Although the law has stricken Latinos with fear of experiencing discrimination, a total boycott of the state would have an impact far too severe. Not every Arizonan supports the law: Phoenix mayor Phil Gordon has already planned to take legal action against it, writing, "Our best hope in my hometown is that the rest of America doesn't do to Arizona what Senate Bill 1070 requires our police officers to do to people with brown skin: 'profile' them based on stereotypes and insufficient information." Unfortunately, several other states are considering adopting similar legislation, including Arkansas, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio and Texas.

"Illegal immigration is a critical issue that must be dealt with; however, Arizona's strict and harsh new law goes too far in addressing it."

CHRISSY VERHOFF
Writer

The passing of this bill has allowed Arizona to point out how serious illegal immigration is in the United States. Despite the importance of addressing the issue, the Constitution reserves the power for the federal government to create legislation involving foreign matters. Only the federal government holds the right to create this type of legislation as immigration affects not only Arizona, but the entire nation. One way the law might have a positive impact is by its influence on the federal government to create legislation that would take precedence over Arizona's law. Congress has proposed a national immigration bill; however, Republicans will need to side with Democrats for the bill to pass.

Aside from the law being unconstitutional, there are doubts about its consistency among different police officers. Many officers, in Arizona particularly, are already known for their tendencies of racial profiling, but are not always prosecuted for it. For these officers, the new law would cause little to no real change in their actions. Contrasting these individuals are those officers against the law, who will be required to enforce it nevertheless. Yet the question is, how will we know whether it is being enforced at all? Although the law encourages onlookers to press charges against officers who neglect to request documentation, a random bystander would hardly ever care enough to involve themselves in such messy and inconvenient legal proceedings. However, presuming any consistency could exist, racial profiling is not worth detaining a few suspicious Latinos. And we must ask Governor Brewer and the grossly misguided supporters of this harsh new legislation, "What exactly does 'illegal' look like?"



CARTOON BY LIAM KARAVSKI

▶▶8

percent was the increase from April to May in Gallup poll respondents deeming immigration the top national issue.

the facebook crawl

Derek Luttrell

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "What was the most awkward and most likely hormone-driven moment you witnessed at prom?"

Courtney Blosser ▶ "People making out on those couch things. Like, what was that?"
Molly Smith ▶ "I saw some kid get to third base on the dance floor right in front of me. So I stared at him and proceeded to feign vomiting."
Rachel Mantica ▶ "Watching those not-so-compatible people make out during two-step."
Alissa Baker ▶ "... Oh, gosh."
Albert Jennings ▶ "I danced with my date on the parking lot roof."
Allie Stanley ▶ "Watching couples face-suck for the entire duration of Usher."
Erica Wurst ▶ "Two crazy kids making out on the beds. They were just all over each other on the beds Mrs. Moss defended as lounge couches."
Molly Quinn ▶ "Well, when I walked into the bathroom once there were five girls crying, and I have no idea whether or not it was laughter or something terrible because it was that hard to tell."
Wes Ring ▶ "The in-dance beds. Open invitations."
Abhishek Chintapalli ▶ "When I up-front squat-thrusted into three girls I didn't know very well."
Trent Cooper ▶ "Sawyer Zirbel with two dates."

A couple share the stars during one of Saturday evening's three slow-dance opportunities.

PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

AP-friendly bill rubs salt in colleges' fiscal wounds

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett has once again proven that fiscal concerns are of more importance to him than quality of education. In a well-meant but misguided effort, he supported a bill recently signed into law which will effectively lower student motivation to succeed academically while also cutting off much-needed funds to public universities.

This legislation, which states that state-supported colleges must accept Advanced Placement (AP) test scores of 3 or higher unless the class pertains to a specific major's requirements, will take effect in 2011. Bennett stated that "an additional 10,000 AP exams passed by Hoosier students [will] now be eligible for an estimated 44,000 college credit hours that were not awarded in the past." This "win-win" situation, as he has dubbed it, will actually harm educational institutions and students alike.

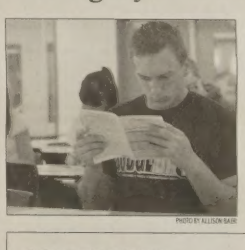


PHOTO BY ALLISON BAIRE

Kaleb Cox (12) scans his AP registration booklet while at one of three pre-exam week morning sessions hosted by guidance counselor Amy Hamilton.

THE ED BOARD
Patrick Svitek • psvitek@thespartana.net

Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

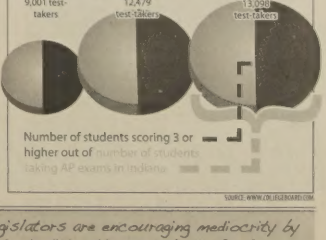
A score of 3 on an AP exam is equivalent to a C, a mediocre grade. Students who attend public universities will likely exert less effort in their future studies as Bennett has deemed the saving of a few bucks more vital than full comprehension and learning. Moreover, this bill will not only keep money in Hoosier pockets – it benefits those coming in, such as the out-of-state students who make up about 30 percent of Indiana University.

As for the universities themselves, it is foolish to urge colleges to cut costs while at the same time depriving them of incoming funds. With basic class requirements met, tuition funds lower as students take fewer classes and graduate earlier. Even more deplorable, public universities are forced to dumb down class requirements.

The irony of Bennett's actions are apparent in another recent event; as part of Teacher Appreciation Week, he recognized six outstanding Hoosier teachers–two of whom have received layoff notices due to the $300 million slashed from state education funds.

SCORES TO BE RECKONED WITH

Since 2004, the percentage of Indiana students scoring 3 or higher on AP exams has held steady at approximately 50 percent.



SOURCE: WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM

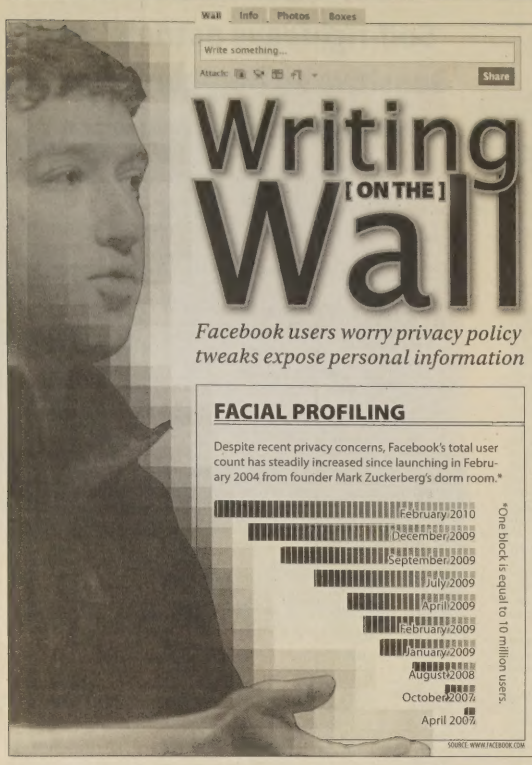
{THE BOTTOM LINE} *Hoosier legislators are encouraging mediocrity by basically standardizing the equivalent of a C grade.*

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO: WWW.MAYIMSAPE.COM

A modified automobile used for snapping Google Street View photography is parked at an American locale. Just as Facebook was under harsh scrutiny for its ambiguous privacy settings last week, Google admitted to collecting Internet users' data on unencrypted Wi-Fi networks while operating this vehicle. The announcement reverberated intensely overseas, where foreigners have grown uneasy about the invasiveness of the Web 2.0 giant's mapping technology.



Writing [ON THE] Wall

Facebook users worry privacy policy tweaks expose personal information

FACIAL PROFILING

Despite recent privacy concerns, Facebook's total user count has steadily increased since launching in February 2004 from founder Mark Zuckerberg's dorm room.*

*One block is equal to 10 million users.

SOURCE: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

By Rafal Swiatkowski
Guest Writer • staff@thespartana.net

With over 400 million users, Facebook is the largest, most prominent social network on the Internet. In only six years, Facebook has revolutionized the manners in which people meet, stay in touch and communicate. In those six years, however, the website has changed many things in order to expand its services, and the most worrisome of all the changes are those that have been made to the privacy settings.

When Facebook first took off from the Harvard dorm room of Mark Zuckerberg in 2004, it was limited to Harvard College students only. The small social project took off and expanded to first include all Ivy League schools, then all colleges and finally, anyone over thirteen years of age was accepted. In its first year of including all teenagers in its list of accepted users, Facebook's default privacy settings allowed only friends and networks to view someone's Facebook page. One would have to be in a person's network in order to become friends with that person.

Joey DeRosa (12) believes that these settings should have remained in place. The expansion of privacy settings allows colleges and future employers access to information that he believes should not be given to them because it allows them to unfairly make judgments about one's professional life based on one's personal life.

"It is wrong for people to be judged by an action that was foolishly publicized when they have matured and grown since the experience," DeRosa said.

In a progression of slow changes, Facebook has expanded those early default privacy settings to allow the entire Internet to view a user's likes, full name, picture, demographics, extended profile data, friends and networks. Wall posts are restricted to friends and photos are restricted to friends and networks. In order to change who sees a user's information, the user must manually reset his or her privacy settings in the account tab.

Ian Hamilton (11) believes that Facebook is at perfect liberty to make these changes.

"They do more good than harm, as it is convenient to have a fast, easy way to find others' contact information," Hamilton said.

The changes to the privacy settings are designed to create a more cohesive Facebook community that allows people to share even more personal information with even more people as social norms develop beyond the age of privacy.

Jenna Banas (12) disagrees with the ideal of posting personal information on the Internet.

"The web is a dangerous place," Banas said.

Hamilton and Banas both disagreed with the policy change in that it should be more apparent to users to ensure that everyone understands what the default settings are.

The changes were also put in place in order to allow Facebook to offer more of its user information to business partners, enabling Facebook Inc. to profit from the gigantic database that it possesses.

Views differ upon Facebook's covert alteration of policy; they range anywhere from anger to grudging admissions of Facebook's right to do business as it pleases.

Banas stated that people are responsible for what they choose to place on the Internet, but that Facebook is in the wrong as well.

"[Facebook's behavior] was manipulative and conniving," she said.

> "When I got started in my dorm room at Harvard, the question a lot of people asked was 'why would I want to put any information on the Internet at all? Why would I want to have a website?' And then in the last five or six years, blogging has taken off in a huge way and all these different services that have people sharing all this information. People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information and different kinds, but more openly and with more people."
>
> **MARK ZUCKERBERG**
> *Facebook Founder, In An Interview With TechCrunch*

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK SNYDER

Devoted teachers mold high school experience

As the final months of my senior year draw to a close, I have slowly morphed from a typical high school teenager into a nostalgic, quasi-adult who has never been more anticipatory or fear-stricken. Last week, the thought of having to buy a vacuum cleaner for my campus apartment nearly sent me over the edge. In an effort to combat this fear, I have started reminiscing and clinging to my upbringing; often I find myself recollecting events that happened freshman year or outings taken with friends during summer vacations past.

TEN ITEMS OR LESS

By Hana Svetlovics
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But by far, the memories I relive most are the fun times I have had with my favorite teachers throughout the years. It may be difficult to maintain current friendships during my freshman year at IUPUI, but it will be nearly impossible to remain in constant contact with my beloved former educators. Because of this, I would choose no other topic for my final column than a few shout outs to those teachers who have really meant a lot to me during my time at Homestead.

In order to be allowed to participate in the higher education program my senior year, I had to double up in social studies courses my junior year to fulfill all of my graduation requirements. Because of this, I had the pleasure of studying under the guidance of nearly every teacher in the Social Studies department: Mr. Nick Byall, Mr. Tim Decker, Mr. Tom Maher, Mrs. April Moss and Mr. Keith Potter all had the pleasure of seeing me on a daily basis last year, and at least once a day I would stop in to torment Mr. Jon Baker before continuing on to my next class. Not only did I succeed in the classroom, but I also walked away with something more than historical knowledge; I gained mutual respect and several friendships from my time in these classrooms.

That being said, two of my best friends and mentors are in the Spanish department. Señor Justin Peeper and Señora Toiyonna Arias have had more influence on my high school education and my future career decisions than any others in this building. I had the pleasure of spending ten days with these vivacious people in Costa Rica, and aspire to not only learn the Spanish language to such a great degree as they have, but also experience life at such an upbeat pace. Let me tell you: first and second period with these two is torture on only five hours of sleep. No matter where college may take me, I will always keep in touch and let them know how my studies in Spanish are going.

The final group that deserves my recognition is made up of those in the English department that have made me the strong reader, writer and critical thinker that I am today. No one before and no one since Ms. Jan Venderly has inspired me to remain curious, fulfill my desire for knowledge and look at the world around me in a critical way. I continue to learn from her every day and would not trade her friendship for anything in this world. I am also quite certain that my writing skills would not be at the level they are today without the guidance of Mrs. Connie Christophersen, for which I am forever grateful. But by far and large, my most heartfelt thank yous and sentiments of admiration go out to my journalism advisor, my mentor, my friend, Mr. Rod Kuhn. He has taught me literally everything I know about newspaper journalism and has taught me several life lessons along the way. Through thick and thin, Kuhn and I have always been there for each other, and I hope that in some capacity we always will be. I am quite certain that the only thing that could tear us apart would be a big game between his Mountaineers and my Volunteers, which is nothing a batch of brownies couldn't fix.

Parking lot shenanigans unresolved in jittery moments prior to prom hysteria

Students' cars tagged with unlikely request

By Lexi Yanez
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

After school on April 29, 2010, a select group of unfortunate students were shocked when they left the building after school. Students were getting ready to head home when they approached their cars and noticed that the phrase "PROM?" was written across the back of their windshields. Numerous cars fell victim to the graffiti, and with lingering questions, everyone is wondering "whodunit."

"Well, I knew it was not my girlfriend who wrote it because she had gotten to the parking lot first and texted me to ask if I had written it to ask her to Prom," Jason Schlatter (11) said. "I believe that someone from Anthis wrote [it] because they [would have] the opportunity to write it if they drive to Anthis. The culprits were trying to be funny, when they really aren't."

▶▶415

minutes is the time juniors' cars are left unoccupied throughout the school day, assuming the average 11th-grader spends arrives five minutes before the first bell and leaves five minutes after dismissal.

Students may well have initially considered that the message was a genuine invitation to the Prom. This was not the case, however; as students began looking for their potential date to be lurking around the corner, they found that "PROM?" was written on all of the cars in the parking lot. Every single car had the phrase written on it; none were safe from the prank.

"First I thought it was someone asking me to prom, but when I looked around, I noticed that it was written on all the cars," Ashlee Larkey (11) said.

Students began wondering who could have written it and how he or she pulled it off. Friends were asked the next day whether or not they had been the culprits; the true offender has yet to surface. If the student had written it after school, people would have seen him, so he could not have done it then. Doing it before school was not an option, because sometimes students come to school late and those students could have spotted the culprits. There was no time of opportunity for the prankster, leading wondering minds to conclude that the act had to have been committed during the school day.

"When I saw the word written, I knew it was not real. My girlfriend Nicole would not ask like that. I thought it was Max Dickmeyer (11) and Keelan Rushing (11) who wrote it, but when I asked them they denied it," Marcus Wilkins (11) said.

Students are still attempting to uncover the perpetrator, but nobody knows who did it, except the person, or people, who did it. Some students believe it was just mischievous students who were trying to get a laugh out of everyone, but whose prank did not work out as intended; others were angered by the idea of someone writing on their car. Some joked about it afterwards, accusing friends of writing it, but no one has found out who actually perpetrated the crime.

"I confess I did it. I was sleeping in class, but instead of just sleepwalking, I wrote in my sleep. I did not realize I did it until my boyfriend told me I had written 'PROM?' on all the cars," Gabriella Tatara (11) jokingly admitted. "The reason I did it was because I love to see blue on cars. When I walked out of school that day I acted surprised, but I knew it was a prank because why would I ask myself?"

AWKWARD AFTERMATH

While juniors whose cars were marked with the infamous prom question may have felt uncomfortable in the days leading up to the annual event, nothing compares to the notorious Facebook photo-posting afterward. Reproduced below are the most cringe-inducing remarks from album-crawlers.

▶ "This would look so adorable if it wasn't off-centered."
▶ "We like to call this the naked picture."
▶ "Seriously, guys, who wrote 'poop'?" (In response to whiteboard in background marked with fecal term.)
▶ "Who is that strange brown kid in the background groping those two girls?"
▶ "Nice shades, bro!"

Freshly rid of an after-school prankster's misleading graffiti, which read "PROM?", a junior-lot car returns to its parking spot.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

EnEvo to celebrate second year with 'awesome' bash

Eco-friendly student group still pressing administration to ditch Styrofoam lunch trays

By Rachel Shinn
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

With global warming and climate change a popular topic on environmentalists' agendas, it's no surprise that everyone is "going green." Environmentally friendly companies like Patagonia have caught the attention of the world, but local groups like EnEvo have caught the attention of the community.

Short for Environment Evolved, EnEvo is a youth-run organization that helps improve the environment and community. Run by three students and their mothers, EnEvo is entirely not for profit. Bri Bardonner (11) started EnEvo when she was 15 in hopes of raising environmental awareness in the community without watching "An Inconvenient Truth" or being told to recycle. Its mission is to inform those currently unaware of environmentally safe products and small differences that together make a big change.

"I'm very determined to find awesome and super-gnarly ways to be eco-friendly," Bardonner said.

EnEvo started the Eco-Club last year and, after receiving enough funding, plans to continue the club next year with the addition of many changes and improvements. Hoping to have a booth at Earth Fest, EnEvo plans to work out a sponsorship for an event in which part of the money raised will go to EnEvo to further improve the Fort Wayne community.

> "I'm very determined to find awesome and super gnarly ways to be eco-friendly."
>
> **BRI BARDONNER (11)**
> *Environment Evolved Founder*

"The more students [who] are willing to help out, the more successful this will be," Lauren Arnold (11) said. "With that, I wanted to make sure to get people aware and involved."

Like Earth Fest, EnEvo's Summer Bash will work to directly improve the community. EnEvo is currently focusing on getting rid of polystyrene (Styrofoam) trays and other earth-unfriendly materials in Homestead. Its future goals include creating green roofs and composts at school and at businesses, a community garden in Fort Wayne and raising awareness about the ease of recycling, making compost piles and choosing every day to do something small and eco-friendly.

GREEN DAY

Who: Environment Evolved
What: Summer Bash 2010
When: June 11, 3 to 6 p.m.
Where: Indian Trails Park

The EnEvo end-of-the-year summer bash will take place on June 11 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the Indian Trails Park. The event will feature live bands, living art, hamburgers and veggie burgers, student-designed t-shirts and hemp bracelets with the help of Homestead students and MudLove.com. EnEvo will work to raise money that will go directly to improve the environment in the county.

"This party is going to be stellar," Bardonner said. "Whether you want to celebrate the last day of school, chill with some friends, get food, go shopping, go to a concert or improve the environment, the Bash is where you need to be."

Entry into the event is free. Items for sale include freshly grilled food, hemp bracelets, baked goods and a possibility of CDs and other "knick-knacks."

"The draw is that this is going to be an awesome way to spend our last day celebrating and collaborating on new ways to better our environment and community," Arnold said. "Another draw for HHS students is to know that there's going to be a bunch of people there just relaxing and chilling out or even performing, and it's an awesome way to bring this community together."

'Dorian Gray' cautions human influence effects

I've spent a lifetime wishing to be older. In middle school, I dreamed of the freedoms offered by high school. Throughout high school, I've dreamed of the engaging courses of college. Perhaps this is why "The Picture of Dorian Gray," written by Oscar Wilde, remains my favorite classic: because Dorian wishes to alter something as unchangeable as time every bit as fervently as I do.

I can think of no literary masterpiece nearly as relevant to the contemporary adolescent as "Dorian Gray."

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Dorian's tragic narrative is nothing if not a compelling argument against the corrosive and often catastrophic nature of influence: the titular painting and the yellow book upon which Dorian is so fixated are objects of profound power that persuade him to descend into moral depravity. The novel shows that one must also guard against human influence, as Dorian's willingness to thoughtlessly accept Lord Henry's counsel gives rise to his downfall, and Basil Hallward's reverence of Dorian begets his own murder.

Teenagers must repel corruptive influence in the timeless form of peer pressure every bit as actively as Dorian invites it. Sacrificing the self to those who would manipulate it is the greatest tragedy of the novel, and modern youth are appallingly asked by their peers to surrender the self by abandoning personal principles on nearly a daily basis. "Dorian Gray" stands as a warning to those who would yield to the destructive nature of influence.

Oscar Wilde once stated: "An artist should create beautiful things, but should put nothing of his own life into them. We live in an age when men treat art as if it were meant to be a form of autobiography. We have lost the abstract sense of beauty." In accord with those who often cry that novels are over analyzed in English class, Wilde suggests that not all art warrants intense thought: an author can create beautiful works imbued with elements of self, but can also create works every bit as beautiful simply for aesthetic enjoyment.

"Dorian Gray's" immense significance is summarized in a sole excerpt also by Wilde, one that to this day remains, in my opinion, one of the most insightful passages penned by any writer: "Inferior poets live the poetry they cannot write. Others write the poetry they dare not realize." Wilde intimates that life does not imitate art; rather, life itself is art. Whereas some live the tales they are incapable of writing, others write the tales they are incapable of living.

> "I think that, too often, the term 'writer' is used interchangeably with 'storyteller.'"
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Life Editor*

As a writer, I firmly see myself in the latter camp. No literary trope irritates me more than the age-old adage directing students to "write what you know." What miniscule enjoyment can be gained from writing tales of the commonplace occurrences of one's own personal experiences and lifetime? I can conjure no direction potentially given by a teacher more limiting than the aforementioned proverb. While realistic literature is neither less nor more enjoyable than the fantastical, I shudder to think of the innumerable momentous novels that would never have been penned had the authors' teachers given a similar direction: the works of Bradbury, Tolkien, Kafka, Garcia Marquez, Lewis and even "The Picture of Dorian Gray" would be nonexistent. Such a prospect is horrifying. To me, part of the joy of writing lies in the fact that it gives me the ability to envision occurrences and emotions I have not experienced, to indulge my imagination by writing about not necessarily the stuff of "Narnia," but things that are for the time being out of my reach.

I think that, too often, the term "writer" is used interchangeably with "storyteller." Is Stephen King a great storyteller? Absolutely. But a great writer? I strongly contest that he is not. Wilde's magnum opus, "Dorian Gray," is ideal evidence of the most paramount of all my literary opinions: that writing and storytelling are not one and the same. In an era of pop fiction, too many so-called "writers" are concerned with simply relating the plot and no more. This is not writing; this is storytelling, and this is lazy. I find it utterly reprehensible and horrifically tragic that hack storytellers are topping the bestseller list when exceptional prose stylists such as Michael Chabon and Milan Kundera receive the effusive praise that they so deserve only from literary critics and English majors. Writing entails finesse, stylistic elegance and, above all, linguistic innovation. To me, a novel's story is unremarkable; it is the quality of the writing that makes or breaks great literature. Wilde's lush prose and inventive double entendres are what make "Dorian Gray" such an exceptional hallmark of literature, not the story itself.

There is some wry semblance of irony in my unmatched love of "Dorian Gray," a novel that famously crusades against influence, and its profound influence upon me. I can only think that Wilde, one of my greatest literary idols and arguably one of the wittiest writers of all time, would be riotously amused at this.

Nintendo game, Pokémon, continues to hold strong following

PHOTO BY BEN MINESELL

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

"I wanna be the very best, like no one ever was! To catch them all is my real test. To train them is my cause!"

While some Homestead students would love to travel across the land searching far and wide to teach Pokémon and understand the power that's inside, most settle for the popular television show, video games and card game. The Pokémon craze generally starts at a young age.

"I was about eight years old," Nick Ruhrold (11) said. "Everybody played it, so it was something fun that everyone could do."

"It started in first grade. Everyone played it. It was big stuff," Aaron Feneley (11) said.

"One of my friends introduced it to me in third grade," Will Davis (9) said. "Zachary Hamsparks (9) and I used to play together."

"Pokémon" was created by video game company Nintendo in 1996. Originally just a pair of inter-linking role-playing games for the Game Boy handheld video game system, the franchise quickly spawned anime and manga comics, trading cards, toys, books, movies and a highly successful television series.

"The first movie is the best," according to Ruhrold, while Davis prefers "Pokémon 2000."

While the new games are popular, most hardcore Pokémon fans prefer the original Red and Blue versions. The goal of Pokémon, which is consistent throughout all of the movies, games and shows, is to capture all of the 493 Pokémon (originally just 151) and to defeat other Pokémon trainers.

With so many Pokémon to choose from, deciding on a favorite becomes an impossible task.

"I guess Dragonite is probably my favorite. He's a dragon type, so he can do it all," Ruhrold said.

Feneley disagrees.

"Mudkip is the greatest Pokémon of all time," he said.

"If I had to chose, I'd say Alakazam," Davis said. "He could beat other Pokémon just by standing there. Plus, he carried a spoon around, which was pretty cool."

While the interest in Pokémon has waxed and waned throughout the years, its prominence is reemerging with the release of "Pokémon HeartGold" and "Pokémon SoulSilver" for the Nintendo DS, which are remakes of the original "Pokémon Gold" and "Pokémon Silver" games for the Game Boy Color.

"They've managed to maintain the classic elements of 'Pokémon,' and the cool expansions make it up to date," Ruhrold said.

Another feature of the newer games is the PokéWalker, a pedometer that allows the user level-ups to a single Pokémon as a reward for exercise. Other features include connecting with other PokéWalkers, finding items and catching new Pokémon.

"I wear my PokéWalker everyday," Feneley said. "If I forgot it, I would panic."

While this sort of bizarre behavior is typical for some, others fail to comprehend the obsession.

"My family thinks I'm weird," Ruhrold said. Nonetheless, others are more supportive.

"My dad used to tape the show for me, but my parents are really indifferent," Davis said. "My brother is into Pokémon too."

Pokémon is often compared to the card game and television series "Yu-Gi-Oh!," albeit unsuccessfully.

"Pokémon is more inviting than Yu-Gi-Oh, which is really dark," Davis said. "Pokémon has a catchier theme song."

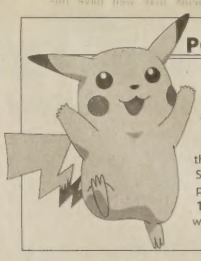
"Yu-Gi-Oh sucks. There's no comparison," Feneley said.

The relevance of Pokémon at Homestead seems ubiquitous. Davis, who did a project about globalization in Pokémon for his English class, has "even attended a Pokémon-themed party."

Ruhrold and his friends use Pokémon as a mean of socializing.

"Pokémon is appealing because it has something for everyone," Ruhrold said.

The original Nintendo game was for a pair of inter-linking Game Boy video systems where each gamer would role-play. Pokémon has since spawned into anime and manga comics, trading cards, toys, books, movies and a very successful television series.



POKÉMON HISTORY

1996: Nintento published the first Pokémon video game for Game Boy created by Satoshi Tajiri

1998: The first episode of the Pokémon TV show aired on September 8, which moved on to produce 13 seasons.

1998: Pokémon: The First Movie was released, being the first theatrical release in the Pokémon franchise history.

1999: Pokémon Red and Blue were release for Game Boy. It was the first version of the game released internationally

1999: Pokemon: The Movie 2000 was released, it was the first and remains only movie to date not including the main characters.

1999: The first Pokemon Card Game Published was published in the U.S.

2010: The fifth generation of the Pokémon video game was released, Pokémon Black and White.

SOURCE | WWW.WIKIPEDIA.COM | PHOTO WWW.PIKACHUANDPALS.WORDPRESS.COM

Senior advances to final round cuts

O'Mara's audition for Colts cheerleading squad cut short but good experience

Meghan O'Mara (12) was one of 280 girls who tried out for the Colts cheerleading this past year. O'Mara made it through various rounds only to be eliminated in the last round. Despite not officially making the squad, O'Mara is confident she did well and hopes to try out again next year. O'Mara explains the difficult journey she went through to try out and provides a first hand account of what it takes to be a Colts cheerleader.

Spartana: What is the application/try out process?

O'Mara: First, I had register online and fill out a bunch of questions describing myself and some for fun. Then the first day of tryouts was Apr. 10. I was up at four a.m. getting ready because I had to drive down to Indy and check in by eight. Then, we got our numbers, pictures taken and learned a short dance routine. We had about 20 minutes to practice, and then we went in a room with four other girls to perform in front of the judges, [a group] which consisted of the Colts cheer coordinator, Theresa Pottratz, the choreographer, a couple [of] people from the marketing department and a rep from Taylor Mason, their sponsor.

> "I wanted to be a Colts cheerleader because it is basically a combination of everything I've done in my past."
>
> **MEGHAN O'MARA (12)**
> *Tried Out For Colts Cheerleading*

The numbers that made it through to the next round were written up on a white board. Then, we learned a longer, harder dance routine for round two, and then went through the same process. So there were two cuts on Saturday. After making it past those two rounds, I had to drive down to Indy every Tuesday to learn a new routine and cuts would take place on Thursday nights. I ended up making it past all five cuts to the final showcase, which was on May 5 in Plainfield, Indiana. The auditorium held 900 people and it was almost sold out, so it was quite nerve racking. From the very beginning there were 280-some girls, and 65 made it to the final showcase, with 32 being picked for the team.

Spartana: How did you get in shape for it?

O'Mara: Getting in shape wasn't much of a challenge since what we were doing was dancing, and I've been dancing since I was seven. I just made sure to avoid junk foods and go to the gym on off days, especially to work the abs.

Spartana: Were you nervous?

O'Mara: I was nervous because I was one of the youngest people there that made it that far, the average [age] being mid 20's. Also, there were always TV cameras there and photographers taking stuff for the website and TV, plus, even if they told you you weren't being specifically judged, you were always being watched so you had to always be perfect. But other than that, not really, because I was comfortable with the dance routines and my ability to perform them well.

Spartana: Why do you think you were drummed out?

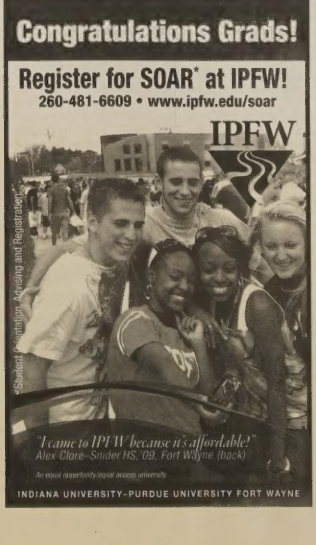
O'Mara: I actually talked to the director afterwards about not making it and she told me that I did a really great job and I was what they were looking for, but they wanted me to take a year and get used to college life. [She also talked about] the fact that they ended up not taking anyone younger than 20 this year, but to definitely come back next year.

Spartana: Why did you want to become a Colts cheerleader?

O'Mara: I wanted to be a Colts cheerleader because it is basically a combination of everything I've done in my past. It's dancing, performing in front of large crowds, interviews, photo shoots, community service appearances. And of course I would get to cheer on an NFL, Super Bowl winning football team which would have been awesome.

PHOTO BY SUZIE PELTIER

Megan O'Mara (12) has been dancing since the age of seven and has always enjoyed it. Becoming a Colts cheerleader is a seemingly perfect career for the dancer. Making it to the final round of auditions was a great accomplishment, despite not making the final cut. O'Mara plans to audition next year after taking a year to focus on school.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SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE KEEGAN

The Homestead varsity baseball team was once again given the privilege of playing a regular season game on Parkview Field. Playing the second game of the night, the Spartans lost to Carroll in a back-and-forth scoring game. The final tally was 13-11, and the Spartans had plenty of opportunities to score runs, but weren't able to match that of the Chargers. The loss was the final blemish in the Spartan's five-game losing streak record.

Girls' track team wins sectional championship

By Connor O'Hara
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

As the Homestead girl's track season comes to a close, an end-of-year assessment would verify that the team has improved compared to their season last year. The team, with head coach Amy Barnes in her third season coaching the Spartans, had an exceptional season with peak performances by the upperclassmen and help from underclassmen who are reaching their full potential as the season closes.

Last year, the Spartans finished with a record of 4-5, a record that did not satisfy the team. The Spartans also finished fifth place in their conference, which created motivation to get the job done this year and move forward to a stronger and more competitive team. This year, the Spartans finished with a record of 6-3 and finished second in their conference, a great improvement from last season.

Ari Nelson (9) is one of the notable underclassmen on the team. Nelson has a full schedule at the track meets and runs the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 4x100 relay. Nelson's 4x100 relay team consists of herself, Emily Teonnies (12), Kati Vail (11) and Terraysha Gordon (12). Their best time of their season was a 50.9, which is very intimidating among many high school times.

Gordon (12) is finishing her season on a very strong note and is rising to become one of the top runners on the team.

"This year has gone really well so far. It's sort of been a rebuilding year for us, but we have a good group of girls who come out to win each and every meet. Overall, it's been a fun and competitive season," Gordon said. Last year, Gordon qualified for the state track meet in the 200-meter dash. She was one of the few who were selected to run in the meet, and she gave a strong performance, but unfortunately it did not materialize into a major win for Gordon. Unfortunately, Gordon was ill with a stomach flu, and was unable to compete in the sectional meet.

On the track, the Spartans are a very strong team, but they also demonstrate strength in the field aspect of the meets. Ari Nelson (9) is one of the strongest long jumpers on the team. Since she jumped in middle school, her experience has proved to be key in her performance this season. Her longest jump, 17 feet 4 inches, makes it clear that finding another long jumper will not be a problem that Homestead will have to face in the near future.

As Homestead's season comes to a close, the girls' track team carries out a practice that most teams do not. The JV season has already ended, but the varsity will continue to practice and hold meets. The JV will not participate in the practice or in the meets.

"I understand why they do that," Nelson said. "It gives the varsity time to focus on their goals and really narrow down on the things they need to improve, so in the end it really does make sense that they end JV's season earlier."

Last Tuesday during a rainy meet at the Bluffton Sectional, the Spartans won the overall Sectional Championship. As a team, Homestead scored 114 points in the meet, beating the second closest team, Wayne, who only had 86 points. Notably, there were several Homestead runners, and members of the field team who placed first overall in sectionals. In the 400 meter race, Emily Toennis (9) placed first, with a time of 58.47 seconds. Sarah Hoppe (12) won the two-mile race, with a time of 12: 17.42, winning her event by over five seconds. The team consisting of Magana, Karen Trexler (11), Mariah Jordan (10), and Haley Havert (10) won the 3200 meter relay, with a winning time of 10:19.62.

"I would say that our team has improved and is now becoming a well-rounded team. We are not scoring all our points in one place but scoring points everywhere, in distance, sprinting and field events. In the past, we have not been able to do that," Barnes said. "Mental attitude and competitive drive have improved greatly this year. The girls on our team have worked hard to be able to compete at every level of competition."

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Emily Toennis (9) finishes the final leg of the 400-meter dash in a meet earlier this season. Toennis is one of the top contributing freshmen on the team.

PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

Albert Jennings takes a practice shot before teeing off. Jennings has shot the lowest 18-hole score this season of 73 at the Wawassee Invitational.

Boys' golf team enters postseason in full stride after invitational victory

By Jacob Cook
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Although the team received an honorable mention in the coaches' poll for the preseason state rankings, the Varsity Golf team appears to have been severely underrated as they near their offseason. With a successful regular season of duels and low scores at invitational matches, they are looking toward a prosperous postseason.

The varsity squad is dominated by a junior class and is relying on younger leadership to carry them. Eric Myers (11), Jon Finley (11) and Tom Kocks (11) take three of the five varsity spots, while the other two are held by Albert Jennings (12) and Zack Landin (12). While Kocks and Finley have consistently shot the lowest scores on the team, Jennings set the lowest mark at 73 for 18 holes at the Wawassee Invitational. The team hopes to lower their average scores and maintain a sub-80 18-hole score for everybody on varsity.

The high point of this year's season so far came at the Homestead Invitational, which took place at the team's home course at Orchard Ridge. The team won by a small margin of five strokes, but they were still able to claim an impressive win against multiple teams. The team finished eighth place against state-ranked teams including top-ranked Avon, #5 Carmel, #6 Floyd Central , #7 Norwell and #8 Warsaw at the prestigious Spring Preview at The Legends golf course. The boys' team beat Norwell and Warsaw by one and two strokes, respectively, for an overall team score of 328. The top-scoring individual for the Spring Preview was Kocks with a 76, a score which placed him in a tie for the fifth-lowest scoring individual out of all 24 teams at the tournament.

"Shooting a score that low was a great way to start the season, everthing was just clicking for me and I was hitting the shots I needed to," Kocks said.

Although the team has fallen out of the state rankings, they are still pleased with their performances.

"We've had some good wins in our duals and posted some ideal scores in the invitational matches," Eric Myers (11) said. "We will be in good shape going into conference play."

The Spartans look to defend both their NHC title and their sectional title again this year. After winning last year by only two strokes and a score of 304, the team is hoping to lower their score further and to increase their margin of victory as well.

"We come to practice every day with a goal in mind and work together to accomplish it," Myers said.

The team's home course, Orchard Ridge, is considered to be one of the nicest courses in the local area and an ideal place for the team to call home. The course, which is filled with hazards to strike fear into the best players, challenges the players both in their game and their mental strength.

"Playing at Orchard Ridge is great, they treat us really well and most of the time we're there, we have the course to ourselves. It's also a big advantage in the postseason because regionals are held there." Jennings said.

"It takes focus and patience to improve, especially when we practice on a course like [Orchard Ridge]," Myers said.

Orchard Ridge's par-71 course houses several other city tournaments year round as well as junior national qualifiers. While the team would like to play more of their tournaments at Orchard Ridge, their schedule constricts them to playing other courses around Fort Wayne.

For this Saturday's Conference Championship, the Spartans will travel to Coyote Creek Golf Course, home of the Carrol Chargers.

"Tomorrow's tournament will be difficult to win, but isn't anything we can't overcome as a team. For me personally, pre-match stretching and meditating will substantially help me perform well during my match. I hope to shoot my lowest score of the season, and help my team to victory." Finley said.

Success appears likely in the championship season. Low scores during the season have helped to establish confidence and to lead to even lower scores in the postseason.

"We've had some really, really good scores in our last few matches," Myers said. "I think we will have a strong finish in the postseason if we continue to play the way we know that we can."

Previous state champs Cathedral falls to Homestead rugby team

By Andrew Weiss
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Many people argue that rugby is a game with the most contact per equipment, but students at Homestead rarely give credit to their fellow students who play the game. While there is no unanimous reason for playing the game of rugby at Homestead, all the players agree that rugby is a fun high school sport.

Like most club sports, this year's schedule for Homestead rugby consisted of few games and a small amount of practices. The team played only seven games throughout the entire season, each in a different region of Indiana. Being a club sport, the team was only able to practice twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. Because many members of the ruby team were new to both the sport and club this year, many practices early in the season were spent teaching the game of rugby and basic skills, but the practices quickly progressed to strategy and advanced skills.

"Practices at the beginning were really chaotic with a lot of the new players not knowing what they were doing," Kevin Wunderlin (12), a newcomer to rugby this season, said. "At the end of the year our practices were really good. With the chemistry we developed, we had quite the team by then."

Like most club sports at Homestead, not all of the team members are from Homestead. This year's team was made up predominately of Homestead students, but three players from South Side High School and one player from Bishop Luers also played. The chemistry on the team was a working progress throughout the season because of the lack practices and games, but once the team cohesion developed, players played some of the best games of the season.

"[With how few games and practices we had,] it was hard for the new players to learn the game, but the veterans on the team really helped by staying after practices and going over skills and strategy," Riley Heinzman (11) said. Heinzman has played rugby for three years and was considered a veteran on this year's team.

Many players on the team were new to the sport of rugby, but they quickly developed a passion for the European football-style game. The new players all had different reasons for playing in a game that little knew much about before the first practice. Wunderlin was one of the newcomers who knew very little about the game, but he quickly picked up the sport and was a main contributor to the team.

"I wanted to play rugby this spring because I told myself heading into my final year at Homestead to try something new," Wunderlin said. "i was really glad I played, and the sport of rugby is something that I will be playing for the rest of my life."

The team finished slightly under the .500 mark with a record of three wins and four losses. The team's season ended in heartbreak as the team lost in overtime to Carmel in their first postseason game. The team did have three big wins, including a victory over defending state champion Cathedral.

"We really came in confident and were hoping for a win," Sam Nussbaum (11) said. "We were able to execute our game plan perfectly, and we came out with the win. All of the effort we put in at practice paid off. It was well worth all the effort."

Heizman agrees that the Cathedral victory was easily the obvious highlight of the team's otherwise brief regular season.

"We played our best game all season against them and I think our aggressiveness really helped us win," Heinzman said. "It was a great feeling for all of us after the game."

A season that started in confusion turned into a season of pride. The Homestead rugby team is making strides each year to become one of the school's more well-known club sports. While the schedule was short, the team made the most of their season and progressed from the beginning all the way to the end.

▶▶7

The number of points Homestead beat state champion-ship-defending Cathedral High School by during the regular season.

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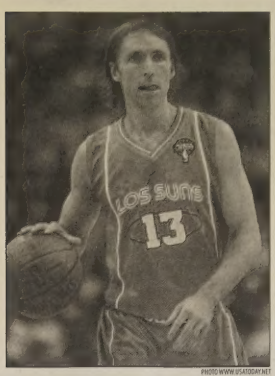


PHOTO WWW.USATODAY.NET

Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash seeks an open teammate while donning his Los Suns jersey, a temporary outfit meant to address the recent passage of controversial immigration reform in his home state of Arizona.

Not always 'Los Sunny' in Phoenix with new threads

Politics entered sports a long time ago, and this isn't news to anyone. However, it was taken to a whole new level more recently when the Phoenix Suns donned their all-orange Los Suns jersey during game two of the Conference Semi-Finals in protest of a hotly-debated Arizona immigration law. This incident was not the first time an NBA team has broken the language barrier with the new jerseys. Other teams including the Spurs, the Mavericks, the Lakers, the Bulls, the Knicks and the Heat have all joined in on the NBA's new Noche Latina theme night. The number of teams that celebrated the Noche Latina nights grew from the past season, and is expecting to include even more teams next year. The consensus is that while the jerseys may look "cool" and "hip," most people don't know the reasoning behind these unique uniforms.

CUP OF JOE

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

Now, why these teams chose to switch their normal jerseys to Spanish is beyond me. The idea originally started last year, but it was put into full effect for the 2009-2010 season. The main goal of 'Noche Latina' was to build interest in the NBA's Hispanic fan base by simply changing what the team's jersey said that night. The NBA originally scheduled nine of these Noche Latina nights, with only three of them being nationally broadcasted. The general public is surprisingly understanding about the new theme nights, and I am too. If you aren't, then shame on you. Embrace the fact that Anglo-Saxons aren't the only race that watches or plays basketball. Don't turn the television off because the jerseys aren't spelled out in your first language, and don't turn it on because the NBA has finally started to show interest in your culture.

For a few nights each season, I won't choose to complain about a basketball team's new threads, however politically charged they may be. By all means, go crazy – wear a sombrero to the game, serve burritos at the concession stand and gleefully look at your team's grammatically incorrect jerseys. But changing the jerseys in the thick of the playoffs? I don't think I'm the only one who is wondering whose decision this was. The playoffs are not the time to divide your fans on a controversial issue and should instead be a time to bring them together in the toughest part of the season.

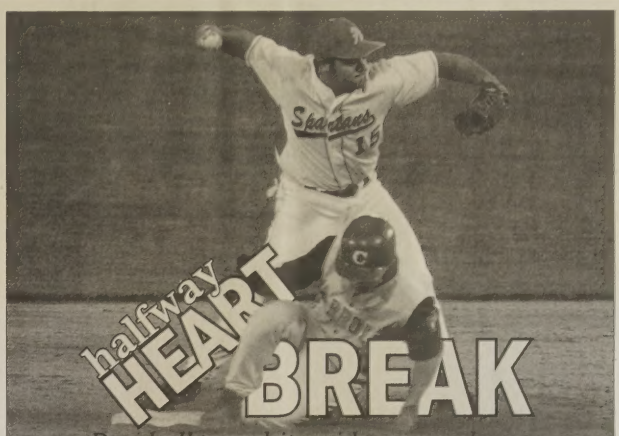
On May 5, for game two of the Suns and Spurs playoff series, the Suns diverted from their originally planned all-orange PHX jerseys and decided to wear their Los Suns jerseys in protest of Arizona's new immigration law. The law states that anyone who looks like they are of Hispanic descent can be asked to show identification to prove their citizenship. I agree with the idea of the law but not the direct targeting of Hispanic-Americans. Either make everyone in Arizona carry their identifications at all time (which they should) or don't enforce the law at all.

> "I don't think I'm the only one who is wondering whose decision this was. The playoffs are not the time to divide your fans on a controversial issue and should instead be a time to bring them together in the toughest part of the season."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

The focus of this column isn't to bash the Noche Latina nights or to show my frustration that I couldn't match what the Suns were wearing that night because I don't own a Los Suns jersey. More than anything, I find it frustrating that the Suns have decided to take a political stance in a physical sport. The hard truth is that 6'10" Amar'e Stoudemire will probably have a stronger influence on the public than the bald guys on C-SPAN. Do you think it was his decision or Jason Richardson's decision to wear the "Los Suns" jerseys? And what happens if one of the players does support the immigration law? Does he have to wear the jersey? What's next, a pro-life Colts helmet and a pro-choice Yankees bat?

I'm not going to take a direct stance on whether or not the Suns should have worn their Los Suns jersey that night. But after looking at the bigger picture, I hope that game two of the Conference Semi-Finals isn't the beginning of a slippery slope of change in the NBA. Who knows, maybe Conferences won't be decided by East or West, but rather by Republican or Democrat, red or blue, liberal or conservative.

In the end, what jersey the Suns are wearing for game three of the Conference Championships against the Lakers won't make a drastic difference in whether or not I watch the game. For now, I'll have to live with the Los Suns jerseys, but when basketball games become less of a sport and more of a statement, that's when I'll turn off the T.V.



halfway HEART BREAK

Baseball team hits mid-season slump

BY MAX ISROFF
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

Much was expected from the boy's baseball team this year, but halfway through the season the team folded under pressure and showed the weaknesses of the team. The Spartans were 9-1 before they lost five games in a row, the longest losing streak for the boys' baseball team in over four years. The losses put the Spartans behind in the NHC rankings, especially after the loss to Carroll at Parkview Field.

▶▶5
consecutive games were lost by the varsity baseball team, their longest losing streak in four years.

"The losing streak was tough," Cody O'Neal (12) said. "We are not a team who is used to losing. When we started losing all those games in a row, we almost didn't know how to react. I think that [that reaction] is what hurt us the most and what kept us back from winning. We were not able to refocus ourselves on the next game. Instead, we were trying to figure out what happened in the game we had just loss."

The team was predicted to win the NHC, but now the team is behind in the rankings. They have to win against conference opponents to give themselves a chance at a conference championship. The losing streak started at Belmont on April 5. The team then dropped their next three games to DeKalb and Snider. The team needed to refocus for their big game against Carroll, the school's biggest rival, whom Homestead played at Parkview Field.

After a strong start including a home run to deep left field by O'Neal, the Spartans were leading as they went into the top of the seventh inning 11-9. After a single to left field by Carroll's Zach Vanlandingham (11), Carroll pulled within one run of Homestead. A three-run double down the third baseline then scored three more runs for the Chargers, making the score 13-11. Although the Spartans were able to score one run, they were unable to drive in the final run to force extra innings. The almost-three-hour epic game was the final loss for the Spartans in their five-game skid.

"Losing the game against Carroll really got to us," Jake Renkenberger (12) said. "After having a lead going into the final inning, losing the game after they rallied really hurt us. This loss was especially tough because we were playing under the lights at the Tincaps stadium. It was our time to shine and show that we were better then the four-game losing streak that we had going into the game, and we were unable to prove ourselves."

After the game against Carroll, coach Steve Sotir, who was in his third season of coaching baseball, faced a challenge he had not experienced in his brief but successful career as a Homestead baseball coach. Sotir used the two-day break to fix the issues the team was having and, more importantly, to refocus the team for the next game, which came on May 13 against Norwell.

The team listened and focused on the game, winning 20-7 and showing form that they had not shown since the beginning of the season. The offense showed promise, something that they had not done during the losing streak. During the skid, the Spartans scored no more than five runs against either DeKalb or Snider. The return of the offense also helped the Spartans win their double-header against Concordia by scores of 8-6 and 3-2.

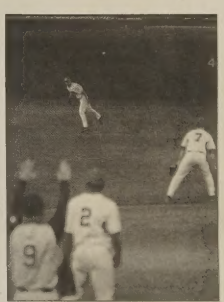
The offensive production was brought on by seniors Renkenberger, O'Neal and Steve Lowden (12). Lowden has gone 12 for 12 with six walks in his most recent at-bats, a feat almost unheard of in high school baseball. His offensive production and ability to get on base along with Renkenburger, who scored 6 runs himself against Norwell, has helped put the Spartans back on track.

As far as pitching goes, the team's two best pitchers, O'Neal and Eric Kartman (12) also struggled during the skid, but in the last three games, both have been able to pitch to the best of their ability again and have helped the team to refocus on their season goal.

> "Just because we lost five games in a row in the middle of our season doesn't mean we can't [go to state]."
>
> **CODY O'NEAL (12)**
> *Varsity Pitcher*

"Our goal is still to go to state," O'Neal said. "Just because we lost five games in a row in the middle of our season doesn't mean we can't do that. We just need to work harder than before and focus on winning every game from here on out, especially against conference opponents. If we play our best baseball, we can compete with the best teams in the state, and that is exactly what we plan on doing."

The team will need O'Neal and the other seniors to play their best to have a chance of proving themselves in not only NHC play but later in the postseason as well.



PHOTOS BY SIZZIE KELLER

Top: Anthony Mullen (12) attempts to force a double play after jumping over an opponent runner.
Left: Jake Renkenberger (12) positions himself to catch a teammate's outfield lob while their coaches emerge from the dugout to encourage the players.
Below: Andre Jernigan (10) backhands a grounder at third base.

RECOVERY IN THE RING

Thrower Kopecky plays 'mind game' while rebounding

A two-sport athlete sidelined for more than half a year by an unexpected shoulder injury, Brad Kopecky (11) is now attempting to advance through the track season with a discus thrower's most vital tool intact – his arm.

Spartana: How long have you been on the track team, and how many years have you been a varsity member?

Kopecky: Three years, and three years on varsity.

Spartana: When did you hurt your shoulder, and what were you doing?

Kopecky: I dislocated my shoulder for the first time on Dec. 23, 2008 going up for a rebound and again on Senior Night of the 2008-2009 season against Snider when I fell to the floor. Both times occurred during a Homestead basketball game.

Spartana: How long did your doctor tell you that you would be sidelined?

Kopecky: He told me it would be six to eight months.

Spartana: What was your initial reaction upon hearing the news?

Kopecky: At first, I didn't want the surgery because it would take me out of my sophomore track season, restrict me to non-contact activities the entire summer and put me in a sling for two months. However, I knew I would need to have the surgery sometime before I played any basketball again.

Spartana: How long did it take you to recover?

Kopecky: About seven and a half months.

Spartana: Do you feel like you are finally at 100 percent now?

Kopecky: I do not. My shoulder still feels weak. It is more of a mind game now in getting trust back into doing normal activities and knowing it will not pop out again.

Spartana: How did playing basketball affect your recovery?

Kopecky: It actually helped my recovery because I did a lot of shooting around by myself, which helped to strengthen the tendons that were surgically repaired.

Spartana: Have you had to change the way you throw at all?

Kopecky: I have not because the point where my shoulder came out is at the top of the socket and the throwing motion is more of rotating the shoulder along the bottom of the socket.

Spartana: What have been the highlights of your season so far?

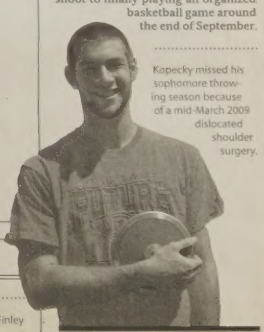
Kopecky: The highlights of my season would have to be the South Side meet and the Northrop meet. The South Side meet was my first meet in two years, and I was really hyped to finally throw competitively. The Northrop meet is also a highlight because I threw my personal best of 142 feet 11 inches.

Spartana: Have you had any other sports-related injuries?

Kopecky: I have had a muscle pulled away from the bone in my back in eighth grade, and I chipped half of my front tooth in seventh grade playing street hockey in my cul-de-sac.

Spartana: Did you ever reach a point where you thought you wouldn't be able to competitively throw?

Kopecky: When I finally set my surgery date of Mar. 25, 2009, it was a good amount into the 2009 track season and, although I did not compete at all in that season so far, I knew my whole season would be over for good. I did have points in the recovery process where I wasn't sure if I wanted to play basketball or throw again because I would be too afraid that my shoulder might dislocate again and I would have to go through the whole process again. Once the doctor released me to shoot baskets and do non-contact activities, I started to gain more trust in my shoulder and I knew that I wanted to play and throw again. I worked my way up from just barely being able to shoot to finally playing an organized basketball game around the end of September.



Kopecky missed his sophomore throwing season because of a mid-March 2009 dislocated shoulder surgery.

JUNIOR MAJORITY, SENIOR SKILL

PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

Varsity golfer Jon Finley (11) tees off at the Homestead Invitational at Fort Wayne's Orchard Ridge golf course. Spartan swingers captured the top spot at the annual event by a slim margin of five strokes. Finley is one of three juniors — the other two being Eric Myers (11) and Tom Kocks (11) — comprising this year's five-golfer varsity squad, which is also composed of Albert Jennings (12) and Zack Landin (12). See story on page 6A.

KOPECKY'S FINEST FINISHES

- First place at South Side
- Second place at East Noble
- Second place at Columbia City
- Fourth place at the Harding Invitational
- Second place versus DeKalb and Carroll
- First place versus Northrop
- Seventh place at Lime City Relays
- Second place at New Haven

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

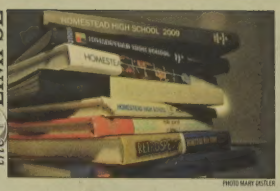


PHOTO MARY DISTLER

After we leave these hallways and choose where we will start our adult lives, we must make it through the next few weeks. With the summer so close but yet so far, motivation to work is hard to come by. Hopefully with examples of successful Homestead graduates, you can begin to dream of college, the perfect job, or even another next step you wish to take after you leave high school. With encouraging words, they share hope and advice about growing up.

FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET

turning back to the Past

Graduates share success stories, job insight, tips for current students to follow their path

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
Feature Editor • feature@thespartana.net

Since Homestead's establishment in the 1970s, thousands of graduates have left to start lives in the real world. Whether it be joining the military, enrolling in college or getting a job, past students have gone on to be successful in a variety of different fields.

Literally on the field was Pete Lougheed ('98), who played football in college for Purdue and in the National Football League for Chicago, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Cleveland and Dallas.

"Cincinnati was my favorite," Lougheed said. "I had a lot of friends and it was more stable."

Lougheed, while at Homestead, participated in football, basketball and track, and now lives in Indianapolis working for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney as a financial consultant. He and his wife Leslie, also a Homestead graduate, have a nine-month old son named Kody.

Working outside as well is Carl Bauer ('87), whose love of the outdoors began with environmental science trips with former teacher Doug Waldman.

After attending Purdue to study forestry, Bauer worked at different jobs in Northern Colorado and did work for the Bureau of Land Management. In 2002, he took his current job as Recreation, Land and Minerals Program Manager for the San Carlos, Colorado, ranger district.

"I really like interacting with all the different, passionate public that is concerned about how we manage the national forest," Bauer said.

Recently, he has worked to rebuild campsites and alpine trails.

"It's important to bring all these people together towards common goals," Bauer said of his recent projects that are staffed by volunteers and inmates from a local prison.

Another graduate, Joseph Cohen ('88), went to school at Indiana University, law school in Indianapolis and then came back to Fort Wayne. Now, working since 1996 as a lawyer at Barrett & McNagny LLP, he said he grew from his experiences as a student at Homestead.

"I learned the importance of working hard," he said. "The classes we were taking were hard, so you had to work to do well." Cohen was senior class president and played on the varsity soccer and tennis teams.

Lindsay Lutz ('00) is a legally inclined graduate, as well. Following education at Notre Dame and Harvard Law School, Lutz worked at a law firm for two years and then obtained a competitive position working for Federal Judge David O. Carter in California. She assists him with different types of cases, helping read paperwork and making decisions.

Lutz was assistant editor of The Spartana and was involved in marching band, tennis and key club.

"I did a lot of activities," Lutz said. She said she needed "an ability to balance and keep up with school work," but still do activities that she enjoyed. Lutz also said that "being flexible" in her career was important.

Instead of working in a real courtroom, Mike Brouwer ('02), who graduated from Ball State in 2006 with a degree in musical theater, worked on "Law & Order" in New York. Brouwer, a member of the Actors' Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild, hopes to one day be on Broadway.

"I had no intention of doing TV or film, but I've been pretty lucky with the amount... I've done," Brouwer said, speaking of his various work on touring stage shows, television and movies. He said he has also met a few celebrities, including Al Pacino and Angelina Jolie.

"Bruce Willis walked by [one time] and said 'hi,'" Brouwer said of one star-struck encounter.

Kelli Crubaugh ('04) has also met celebrities at her job as convention coordinator at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. She met musician Darius Rucker, and once escorted chef Paula Deen around the hotel in a golf cart.

"Anything that pops up, they come to me," Crubaugh said.

As convention coordinator, Crubaugh said she works to make sure the sponsors of the convention and the hotel are in agreement.

"I'm the liaison for conventions," she said of her job keeping events running smoothly. During her four years at Homestead, Crubaugh said she spent a "big part" of her life as a cheerleader and also worked on the yearbook.

Despite the variety of their fields of work, these graduates all have variations on the same theme of how they got to be where they are today.

"Any experience that you can [have] is helpful," Brouwer said, "It's about creating contacts and relationships." From his actor's perspective, Brouwer said that friends he knew from Fort Wayne helped him to find roles once he graduated.

Cohen, who gave a speech at his graduation, said he values the importance of work ethic.

"You have to work hard and you have to be nice to everyone," he said.

Lougheed stressed the value of working, too.

"Find something you enjoy and work hard at it," he said. "You always have a chance to be successful."

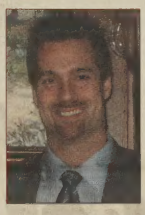
Lindsay Lutz ('00)

Judge clerk

CURRENT EMPLOYER: Federal courts of California
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Assistant editor of the Spartana, tennis team, marching band and Key Club
CURRENT INTERESTS: Catching criminals
FAVORITE HOMESTEAD TEACHER: My Latin teacher

Pete Lougheed ('98)

Financial adviser



CURRENT EMPLOYER: Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Football, basketball and track
CURRENT INTERESTS: Rooting for his friends on NFL teams
FAVORITE HOMESTEAD TEACHER: Mr. Cavacini

Kelli Crubaugh ('04)

convention coordinator

CURRENT EMPLOYER: Gaylord Opryland Hotel
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Cheerleading and yearbook
CURRENT INTERESTS: Working to make conventions run smoothly

Carl Bauer ('87)

Head of Recreation, Lands, and Minerals Program management

CURRENT EMPLOYER: San Carlos Ranger District
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: "Band nerd," marching band, jazz band, track, cross country
CURRENT INTERESTS: Rebuilding campsites
FAVORITE HOMESTEAD TEACHER: Doug Waldman

Mike Brouwer ('02)

actor

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Class Royale and co-hosted senior variety show
CURRENT INTERESTS: Getting a role on Broadway
FAVORITE HOMESTEAD TEACHER: Mrs. Johnson for American Literature

Joseph Cohen ('88)

Lawyer

CURRENT EMPLOYER: Barrett & McNaghy LLC
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Varsity soccer and varsity tennis
CURRENT INTERESTS: Winning cases
FAVORITE HOMESTEAD TEACHER: Mr. Potter and Mrs. Kidd (math)

COURTESY PHOTOS

the SPARTANA

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fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS
Senior Spartana staff members bid farewell to the student publication that taught them more about life than journalism. 2A

LIFE
A series of surprising Spartana wins at the Windsong Film Festival in the short comedy category is no laughing matter. 4A

FEATURE
Contributing writers address Homestead's strangest mysteries of the school year, including the identity of Michael Hunt. 6A

OPINION
Kentucky Republican Senate candidate Rand Paul is far from a racist, but his political views must be closely monitored. 3A

SPORTS
Due to increasing district budget cuts, pay-to-play sports may be arriving at Homestead as early as next fall's athletic season. 5A

ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net.

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Survey: Students oppose meeting more for advisory

Less than one-quarter of students 'enjoy' activities

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The student body's dissatisfaction with advisory was again demonstrated, as the results of a related survey distributed to students and advisors were released May 24.

Less than 25 percent of students reported that they enjoyed advisory activities, while a similar number of advisors (23.2 percent) believed their students enjoyed the activities, according to the results. In addition to the low number of students who enjoyed advisory, only slightly more than half of students believed that they understood the basic purpose of advisory.

"I think all of [the results] show that students and teachers support ending advisory," Michael Kitch (9) said.

SEE 'SURVEY RESULTS,' PAGE 2A

MATTER OF WHEN

Below is the distribution of answers to the question of how often advisory should meet next school year.

Option	Advisers	Students
Monthly	31.1%	23.2%
Twice Monthly	31.1%	16.6%
Weekly	16.7%	22.3%

PARKING PENDING

Parking issues unlikely to be resolved by end of current school year

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

Senior students receive many privileges that are deservingly awarded after three years of being underclassmen. One of the most cherished is the senior parking lot. In this lot, which is the closest to the school building of the three parking lots, seniors choose one spot in which they park for the whole year. However, current problems with the senior lot have caused the administration to reconsider continuing the lot.

Problems arise when many seniors have higher education, co-ops, Anthis, internships or a bad case of senioritis and do not come to school every day. There are often open spots closer to the school than the spots in the underclassmen parking lots. Underclassmen then park in the senior spots, putting more pressure on Officer Tinkle to patrol all of the lots.

"I don't have the manpower or the resources to be able to patrol the lots," Tinkle said. "Whether its people parking in other places or people not parking where they're supposed to park, I don't have the time to be able to manage it all. Also, because of the assigned parking, you can walk out [to the senior parking lot] on any given day, and you're going to have 100 empty spots out there. It's a waste of parking spots."

Juniors this year were irritated when the junior lot that they had seen their predecessors use was changed to a general lot for sophomores to use as well. Now, they are worried for the fate of the senior lot, too.

"I was angry this year when I saw that the junior lot was changed to a general lot, and now our senior lot might be taken away, too," David Libbing (11) said. "I don't feel like its fair that classes before us had privileges that we don't get to have."

The administration, however, will most likely not get rid of the senior lot in its entirety. They might just make minor tweaks to satisfy both the seniors and themselves. A group of students proposed a plan that hopefully will salvage the parking lot for next year's seniors.

"Max Isroff (11), Frankie Zirille (10), Joe Hanauer (11) and I [came] up with a plan to keep the senior lot next year," Paul Lee (9) said. "Our plan is to make the senior lot next year just a general lot for all of the seniors. If you do not have a pass to park in the senior lot, a boot will be placed on the tire of your car. This boot prevents you from driving anywhere until it is taken off, and you will have to pay a stiff fine to have the boot removed. This [plan] hopefully will prevent any future offenders. We have talked to the administration about this a few times and they like the idea of the boot and the general senior lot, because the last thing they want to do is take away the senior lot. We think this is the best solution to keeping everyone happy and mak-

> "I don't have the manpower or the resources to be able to patrol the lots."
>
> **JEREMY TINKLE**
> *Resource Officer*

SEE 'PARKING PENDING,' PAGE 2A

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Seniors revel in final moments of high school years

Second-to-last school week devoted to 12th grade-only entertainment, activities

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Senior Activities Day rewarded seniors with a day full of relaxation and entertainment on Wednesday, June 2. After working hard to make the day possible, parents, students and the administration were able to carry out the special day, which previously had conflicted with a new state-wide mandate that eliminated half-days from Indiana schools. However, seniors agreed that the day was flawless, even though they had to attend classes for two periods.

The day was sandwiched in the middle of a week that epitomized senioritis. Seniors had Monday off for Memorial Day, took Tuesday as a skip day and broke tradition by taking Friday as another skip day, when the majority of the seniors made a pilgrimage to Cedar Point. The only full day of classes for seniors was on Thursday, June 3.

Senior Activities Day gave the seniors an opportunity to miss class and see their friends without using one of the ten coveted parent-excused absences. Most seniors agree that the day was a success.

In previous years, Senior Activities day was a half day, but a new state law banning half days caused seniors to be required to go to sixth and seventh periods after a morning of fun.

"The whole entire day [seemed] like it [was] filled with fun, but if I had to choose one [part], I would choose the activities, because I [had] no idea what we [were] doing, so it [was] like a pending secret," Susan Tsai (12) said. "I [didn't] really mind not having a half day. We already [missed] more

SEE 'SENIORS,' PAGE 2A

366
seniors responded to the 12th-grade exit survey and indicated their post-graduation plans. Of that sample, 306 students will be attending in-state colleges or universities.

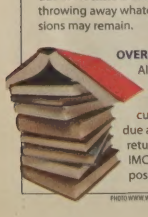
PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Left: Seniors Ben Hazen, A.J. Terry and Brian Landrigan captivate the audience with their choreographed rendition of N'Sync's "Bye, Bye, Bye," a bittersweet reminder of the early millennium for their classmates. Right: Sohail Emamian (12) performs his beatboxing act during the Senior Variety Show. Toward the conclusion of the event, he was invited back onstage by Ahmed Tabron (12) for an impromptu beatbox battle.

BRIEFS

ACHIEVEMENTS IN CHEMISTRY
The northeastern Indiana chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) rewarded honored two juniors and one senior May 27 for excellence in chemistry studies. Solomon Lin (11) was awarded an $800 scholarship for winning the organization's Traveling Trophy and Jordan Mauk (11) was recognized with a $250 scholarship for placing fifth to his fellow junior. In addition, Melanie Johnston (12) secured a $100 check for excelling in the senior division of the ACS science fair.

END-OF-YEAR LOCKER SWEEPS
All students must clear out their lockers by June 11, the last day of school. Beginning the next day, custodians will start cleaning out the lockers themselves and throwing away whatever possessions may remain.



OVERDUE BOOKS
All outstanding library books are currently overdue and must be returned to the IMC as soon as possible.

PHOTO WWW.WORKSCOL.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM

failure to raunch

Class of 2010 avoids plotting pranks after past fiascos

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The end of the school year is traditionally signified by the discussion of vacation plans, stress over final exams and general enthusiasm for the summer. One end-of-year mainstay, however, has been noticeably absent from student discussion this year: the senior prank.

"I have heard about some possible pranks, but I am not sure if any of them will be done," Suzie Reecer (12), senior class president, said.

Senior pranks are more than just a way for students to have fun at the end of the school year. They also allow a class to make their mark on the school as they end their high school careers. This tradition may now be in the process of disappearing, though, as harsher punishments frighten students away from pulling pranks.

"Since the administration has become so strict these past few years, most students are afraid to do anything that will jeopardize getting to walk at graduation," Reecer said.

The possibility of pranksters not being allowed to walk at graduation was confirmed by assistant principal Jeff Kintz. Kintz, however, declined to comment more extensively on the subject.

"I'm not going to get into that senior prank stuff," Kintz said.

The threat of severe punishment has clearly been an effective deterrent, and students have cited past administrative reactions as a reason not to pull a prank.

"I always expect the administration to give a harsher punishment than truly necessary, especially after I saw what happened with the harmless food fight," Reecer said, referring to a food fight two years ago. Multiple students involved in the incident were suspended. One student, who did not take part in the food fight but recorded the event and uploaded the video to the internet, was threatened with not walking at graduation if the video was not removed.

At the very least, students have scaled back their pranks in the hope that moderation will save them from negative consequences.

"There used to be a television show on MTV that was all about classic pranks, and I think a lot of students think it would be fun to implement them, but most are so extreme that they couldn't be done," Reecer said.

Students have speculated on the best type of prank to pull that would minimize negative outcomes.

"Obviously if the prank causes a lot of trouble to the janitors, teachers and students, a harsher punishment will be

SEE 'SENIOR PRANK,' PAGE 2A

PRESENT SINCE KINDERGARTEN

Senior ending high school with 13-year perfect attendance

For the most part, senior year is about becoming infected with a serious case of senioritis and perfectly planning college visits and parent-excused absences to miss the maximum amount of school without getting a social worker called to the house. However, one senior, Will Boeckmann (12), knows nothing about cutting class. After sitting through class on PSAT day, during the swine flu scare and most recently on senior skip day, not only has Boeckmann not missed a day of school his senior year, he has not missed a day of school since kindergarten. Boeckmann has had 13 solid years of perfect attendance, and recently, at the academic awards night, the soon-to-be-graduating Boeckmann received an award for his mind-boggling feat.

Spartana: Have you really not missed a day of school since kindergarten?

Boeckmann: I've seriously never missed a day. I missed two periods in high school for a funeral and got suspended for two periods at Summit for spraying fart spray, though.

Spartana: What benefits have you experienced by having perfect attendance?

Boeckmann: Besides the awards and recognition, there's really not too many other benefits besides never having to make up work or tests, and [my perfect attendance] will look good on resumes for life.

Spartana: What did you do when you were sick?

Boeckmann: When I did get sick, which was very rarely, I would still obviously come to school ,anyway.

Spartana: What do you say to students who don't think that perfect attendance is possible?

Boeckmann: It's really not that difficult. A lot of feeling sick is in your head.

Spartana: Did you have anyone pushing you to have perfect attendance?

Boeckmann: My mother really pushed me.

Spartana: Do you feel like you missed out on anything by not participating in Senior Skip Day?

Boeckmann: It doesn't sound like I missed

> "It's really not that difficult [having perfect attendance]. A lot of feeling sick is in your head."
>
> **WILL BOECKMANN (12)**
> *Maintained 12 Years of Perfect Attendance*

SEE 'PERFECT ATTENDANCE,' PAGE 2A

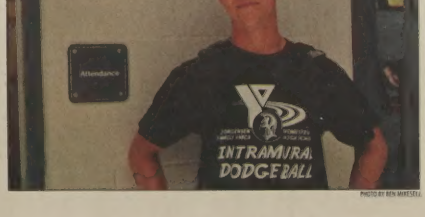


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Boeckmann (12) leans against the wall nearby the attendance window he has not had to visit since entering high school.

FRAMING THE TIME

14,516
Number of days since Homestead opened its doors in 1970.

3,120
Number of days of U.S. military occupation of Afghanistan.

2,340
Number of school days Boeckmann has not missed.

505
Number of days since the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

51
Number of days since the start of the BP Gulf Coast oil spill.

SENIOR FAREWELL COLUMNS

Graduating staff members reminisce about pub life

Confessions of a journalistic mind reveal 'subtle' presence

BY PATRICK SVITEK
Editor-in-Chief • psvitek@thespartana.net

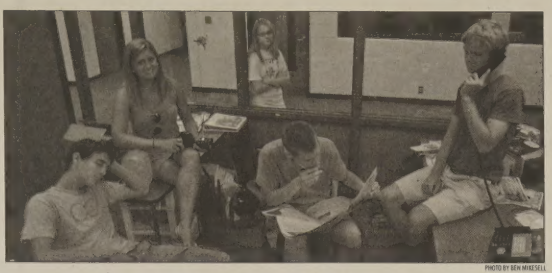


PHOTO BY BEN MAESELL

Left to right: Senior Spartana staffers Andy Franklin, Suzie Reecer, Celia Grundman, Patrick Svitek and Derek Luttrell are caught in their natural environment.

Just like a perplexingly comical red-carpet photobomb or unexpected but still unwelcome Seth Green cameo, Journalism has maintained a subtle omnipresence in my life ever since I reviewed Jay-Z's "Black Album" in fifth grade (Bottom Line: The Cedric the Entertainer voiceovers were extraneous and the singles poorly selected). Behind every seemingly trivial moment throughout high school has been a PDF file submission. An 11th-hour addition to the News section. A pica mistakenly nudged one-twelfth of a pica – or 1/144 of an inch – in the wrong direction. A frantic 5:59 a.m. phone call to the publisher pleading for a deadline extension. An inadvertent flash drive failure punctuated by InDesign crashing.

Two autumns ago, I giddily watched the election of Our President and Divine Savior Barack Obama on MSNBC's online video player rather than the convenient television one room away while obsessively finalizing my third Spartana front page ever (That was way back when it was in vogue to admire the Change-peddling Hawaii native; now, if he still evokes a genuine smile on your rosy face, you're either contemplating Chicago's mayorship or not Glenn Beck). I learned of my initial college admission decision via mobile Internet after swerving off into a Burger King parking lot en route to my final assignment for a semester-spanning internship at the Bluffton News-Banner. The dire responsibilities of the Spartana even seeped into a Lupe Fiasco-inspired Windy City excursion, when I groggily scoured the Loop for a free WiFi connection in the same clothes in which I slept on the floor of the Palmer House Hilton.

And, yes, the first girl with which I ever substantially locked lips was at a 2008 National Scholastic Press Association convention soiree while Nate Dogg's mellifluous baritone on Eminem's "Ass Like That" rattled our hormonal instincts to the perspiring surface. She was in a senior position on a perennially acclaimed Kansas yearbook staff – at least that's what her glossy name tag read – so I briefly excused her for electing to spontaneously canoodle during the one line in which Marshall Mathers croons that eloquent simile involving a toilet seat.

Now that you're dry-heaving attempting to envision one of Homestead's three most slobbery classroom snoozers pivoting his face on anything other than Timothy Decker's back table, allow me to tame the rhetoric for a schmaltzy moment. With sincere honesty, I can admit that Journalism has exhaustively consumed me for the past two years. I've transformed into a sleepless perfectionist with an espresso dependency tripling your self-aware mother's Monday morning routine at the minimum (Real original, I know). I've erred on multiple occasions and sometimes outside the confines of excusability, where aggravated faculty and classmates are sometimes seething in vigil with both metaphorical and physical pitchforks. However, there has always been a somewhat reliable set of peers and mentors to cushion that descent to reality, to subliminally remind me that Journalism is a tormented passion whose ironic allure cannot always be articulated.

Thus, my ultimate departure from the infamous yellow room – or what's left of it after the tuna-can derby and ping-pong-table Five Knuckle Shuffle – is sincerely dedicated to the following personalities: To Bluffton News-Banner editor Dave Schultz, for justifying the microsleep-inducing trek on State Road 1 with a preprofessional journalistic experience worth every single byline; to News-Sentinel editor and IPFW journalism instructor Kerry Hubartt, who once bluntly informed me that "my audience wouldn't get" comparing Fort Wayne rap staple Sankofa to "a deflated John Goodman"; to my thankfully unperturbed neighbors, who probably witnessed me frantically pacing my bedroom (or cacophonously reciting Notorious B.I.G. verses) in nothing but boxers every other Thursday morning, hours before the publication deadline at 6 a.m.; to prank-call extraordinaire Jalen "Prewbag" Prewett, who is clearly not from Memphis, Tenn.; to business manager Max Isroff, who remains a stimulated devotee of "The Office," and sometimes not just the one in which Dundler Mifflin is contained; to the ever-so-obliging Unity Barbershop, at which Ice Cube is apparently not a permanent employee and "dougie" is not yet universally accepted vernacular; to assistant publications adviser Justin Peeper, who can detect an AP style error before my index finger can even pound the period key; to the Spartana staff, for vaguely inferring that the only pub suite entity with which I am smitten more than Joe Janizek is covering advisory survey stories; to my parents, who are most likely swiveling their heads in utter confusion at this point of the column. I love you.

And to publications adviser Rod Kuhn, whose eternal enigma will forever endure through the Homestead attendance line and Diet Coke vending machine options, for criticizing me, praising me, hoisting me on a pedestal and moments later chain-sawing through the frail legs underneath me, tolerating my facetious text-message replies when he urged me not to run certain stories, and stabbing me and hugging me all at the same time.

It is currently 9:25 p.m. on Sunday night, and my iTunes library is cycling through Drake's feverishly hyped "Thank Me Later," which won't be officially released until next Tuesday and I did not digitally obtain prior to that date. Anyway, there's this gorgeously accurate bar on his collaboration with Jay-Z, "Light Up," to which I have also not lent my ears since June 15 is still nine days removed: "They always tell me nobody's working as hard as you, and even though I laugh it off, man, it's probably true." Now, excuse me, I have a phone call with Michael Hunt.

'Still thuggin" after four years

Well, I wasn't planning on writing a senior column, but apparently they "allotted space for it," so here I am wondering what to write for the next 270 words. I guess I should be honored they're letting me, a lowly copy editor with a less than stellar regard for deadlines, give my two cents for the last issue of the Spartana of which I'll ever be a part. It's right about now that I should probably start getting sentimental about all of the great teachers I had and all the friends I made here, and how much I'm going to miss everyone and how we all need to stay in touch, etc. However, I'm going to IU, so I'll probably see at least half of you there anyway, right? Give it up for in-state tuition!

I'm also more than likely putting more thought than I need to into this column, as the majority of these papers will most likely end up on the floor of the commons at 2:40. Even so, the experience I've had as a part of this staff has surprisingly summed up the time I've spent in high school pretty well. Sometimes things get messily thrown together at the last minute, and it doesn't always go as you planned, but in the end, it all turns out well. I've enjoyed my time at Homestead, but, in the words of the immortal Tupac Shakur, "I'd love to go back to when we played as kids, but things change, and that's the way it is." Also, "Mama, I'm still thuggin'." Good luck to the class of 2010 as you sarch for your place in life, and picture me rollin'. – *Andy Franklin*

SPARTANA STATS

Fourteen eight-page issues produced, four font families utilized, one iMac accidentally shattered and infinite flash drives used.

Playing and writing sports

Playing sports has been a major part of my extracurricular life, and reading about sports has been a major part of my before-school life. Ever since first grade, "reading" the sports section of the Journal Gazette has been part of the morning routine. It quickly progressed to reading the weekly Sports Illustrated, The Sporting News, and the USA Today sports section in addition to the local paper.

When I signed up for journalism in middle school, I had no idea how it would affect my life. Middle school journalism put the thought into my head that I could write like sport writer greats Rick Reilly and Tom Verducci, but when I entered Mr. Kuhn's domain, it quickly became apparent that there was much to improve. Writing for the Spartana for the last three years has taught me more about the real world than how to write a great senior column or an article on the Puma's soccer team. Meeting deadlines keeps stress out of your life, whether it is for a despicable boss whom you have named "Fat Tim" or for your spouse who needs her car fixed. I learned what many business people fail to learn until it is too late: missing important deadlines creates unwanted enemies.

Throughout my three years on staff of the Spartana, I have encountered many students at Homestead who do not take a meaningful interest in actually reading about what occurs outside of their personal bubble at this school and around the community. I urge the students who have glanced over my articles in the sports section over the last three years to preserve your interest in reading about athletics, both of the professional and scholastic varieties. As the media continues to write more about the world's problems and people's failures, continue to take former Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren's advice with which I have agreed since first grade: "The Sports pages records people's accomplishments. The front page has nothing but man's failures." – *Andrew Weiss*

'As we go on, we remember...'

And as we go on, we remember, all the times we, had together. Something something, something something, we will still be, friends forever."

Someone, circa 1998, I think, sang these words to me once. Cheetah Girls? Destiny's Child, maybe? Wait, I think it was that one lesbian pop duo with that music video of the two of them making out through a chain fence in the rain... Anyway, this song has never meant more to any of us until now. And as I sit here, slouching in my essay-writing cushion of the living room couch with a Pawn Stars marathon playing in the background, I realize that it will be the last time I do so. While the majority of my Spartana career has been spent either playing The Floor is Lava in the pub room or ping pong in Chief Svitek's basement while we're waiting for the pizza man to come, much of the time I have spent on this very couch, too, has indeed been devoted to my beloved Spartana, as it is right now. So let's make it last.

This new paragraph is a result of the lapse between the last word in the preceding paragraph and the time it took me to eat a bowl of Rocky Road ice cream, a true representation of the working habits of a Spartana editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed my publications career, throughout which I have become the unofficial go-to guy for anything sarcastic, unimportant, inappropriate or, when you think about, probably shouldn't have been in the paper in the first place. But, to be honest, I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

I appreciate all of you avid supporters out there, and I equally appreciate all of you who just as avidly wadded up your newspapers, chanted "Kobe!" and didn't care whether or not you made it to the trash can. Because without you, neither Tim the Janitor nor Little Debbie would have had any fun on Friday afternoons. So stay classy, Homestead. And thanks for reading. – *Derek Luttrell*

Opportunity lies in future

Thought-provoking classics are being surpassed by trashy vampire novels on college campuses while we trash the planet, and while, as many have forgotten, America is still fighting a war, Arizona has legalized racial profiling, Texas has severely edited and shredded history, Indiana's economy and education are flailing, genocide is still underway in the Sudan and Souder's a scuz.

As opinion editor for this school year, I've overseen coverage of sundry and sordid topics. Frankly, the future is dim, with human avarice and hubris as causes. Contrary to popular belief, neither Earth's resources nor the potential for economic growth are unlimited. On a smaller scale, we have seen many educational programs cut and teachers laid off, largely due to State Superintendent Tony Bennett's decision not to seek Race to the Top funds, which could have provided up to $250 million from the federal government, while also hacking away funding for public schools by $297 million.

Pessimism aside, change is our one constant, whether for good or bad. It isn't often that the opinion page features positive reviews of positive news, but we've seen some. Same-sex marriage is becoming more accepted, and technological innovations in all areas are constant. We see that health care reform, once the lies are peeled away, allows kids to stay on their parents' health care until they're 26 and to not be denied coverage due to preexisting conditions.

Most seniors will pursue college in the fall. Others will pursue the military, trade school, jobs or public service (or crime, or freeloading, or prostitution or other gainful employment). You'll have the chance to be the youthful force for change, as so many generations before you, but most of you won't. Political interest isn't high on college campuses anymore, but pick up a newspaper once in a while. Stay informed. Vote. After all, this is the planet, or what's left of it, that you'll hand down to your grandchildren. – *Celia Grundman*

Namely wisdom

My freshman year, I lived for journalism. I wanted to learn everything there was about photography from the senior photographer, Zach Hetrick, as well as anything the executive editor, Larry Buchanan, had to tell me. Both of them taught me incredible amounts of things ranging from how to shoot a camera manually to how to be a person of good character. I laugh now as I think of how I just waited on their every word. Whenever either of them would speak, I would listen intently because I wanted to know everything they knew.

I remember specifically one talk I had with Larry that has truly stuck with me throughout all four years at Homestead. We were just walking down the hall and he gave me some advice. It wasn't related to journalism, it was just regarding life in high school. Larry told me how he always made it a priority to know everyone by name. He said it didn't matter whether it was the custodian, the nurse or another student, he would always say hi and know them by name. Now that I am in the same shoes as he was when he told me that advice, I know exactly why he said it.

There's no reason to go through six and a half hours of school, five days a week, and not be friendly to everyone you meet. Why not make the most of your days and try to get to know as many people as you can? Teachers don't want to go through day after day with unfriendly students, and I'm sure your days would be much nicer if you just said hi and got to know not only your teachers, but also the custodians, secretaries, librarians and lunch ladies. Just try it. Say hi to Debbie next time you see her pushing around the oversized bin of trash while students launch projectile balls of garbage in her direction. Say hi to Mrs. McAtee the next time you get your lunch in the welfare line or Mrs. Kovach the next time you go to turn in your three-months-overdue book. It feels good to be friendly, and it will definitely make your next few years at Homestead good ones.

Take care, Homestead. It's been a great four years. – *Suzie Reecer*

▸▸SURVEY RESULTS CONTINUED FROM 1A

The survey also asked students how often they would like to meet next year, a variable currently being discussed by faculty. Out of four possible choices, a majority of students said that they would like to meet in advisory groups as or less frequently than they currently do.

"It think that's a bad sign for the entire program," Kitch said.

Even though the consensus among students and advisers again indicates a negative opinion of advisory, administrators have maintained their positive outlook towards the program.

"The results support our main goal of forming a connection between teachers and students," Jennifer Bay, advisory design committee chair, said.

Students and advisers, however, do not seem to feel the same connection, and less than 40 percent of students agreed that they were connected to their advisor. Similarly, only one third of advisors agreed or strongly agreed that they had a connection with their students.

One area of the survey that did support the goals for advisory was a question involving "care," and almost 70 percent of students agreed or strongly agreed that their advisor cared about them.

"Overall, this is baseline data that will be used to make changes to advisory in the future," Bay said.

While the student and administrative opinions on advisory are clearly different, both groups can agree that advisory is something that will probably be around to stay.

"Even if we don't like advisory, I really don't see the school getting rid of it any time soon," Kitch said.

▸▸SENIORS CONTINUED FROM 1A

than two or three classes, so two classes isn't bad at all."

As a day at school filled with friends and fun, Senior Activities Day was a hit.

"I [was] so excited for Senior Activities Day, I [was] excited about everything: the breakfast, variety show and activities," Jaya Sharma (12) said. "It does suck that we [did] not get to have a half day this year, but I don't really think we [accomplished] much in class, so it [was] almost like a day off."

In addition to various games and activities, the day included breakfast in the cafeteria and the senior variety show. After eating lunch in the auxiliary gym around noon, seniors were required return to classes during sixth and seventh period unless they had a parent excuse.

Part of the success of Senior Activities Day is credited to Student Government, who organized the day, planned the activities and secured the events that occurred.

"All of the seniors in Student Government [played] a part in planning Senior Activities Day among other senior class activities," Quinn Brenneke (12), Student Government president, said. The seniors in Student Government are Brenneke, Joey DeRosa (12), Ashley Meruani (12), Carolyn Mutton (12), Suzie Reecer (12) and CJ Steele (12).

In past years, the senior class has tried to purchase something for the school every year, whether it is a picture, a mural or something else of the sort. However, no senior gifts have been contributed in the past few years. This year, the class plans to purchase a senior gift.

▸▸PARKING PENDING CONTINUED FROM 1A

ing the parking situation easier. But nothing is for sure yet."

"Administrators have met with a group of students that had a proposal to offer...however, it now appears that we won't be finalized until sometime this summer," Principal Rick Smith said.

With a full two months to contemplate the potential changes to the lot, the administration hopefully will keep the senior lot and be able to make minor tweaks while still satisfying the seniors.

▸▸ATTENDANCE CONTINUED FROM 1A

much. However, I wish I could have gone to Cedar Point on Friday.

Spartana: Do you plan on continuing having perfect attendance in college?

Boeckmann: I imagine I will. You don't go 13 years and then decide to start skipping class.

Spartana: What are your future plans?

Boeckmann: I'm attending IU in the fall, and I am either going to major in business or law.

▸▸SENIOR PRANK CONTINUED FROM 1A

given," Reecer said.

While the fate of this year's prank is still unclear, last year's prank was benign enough to avoid any serious consequence.

"We got 500 plastic flamingos and set them up all over the school lawn," Hayden O'Shaughnessy ('09) said.

O'Shaughnessy took charge of the senior prank last year, helping it to operate successfully.

"Our goal was not to get arrested because of a prank," O'Shaughnessy said.

Administrators not only accepted the prank after it occurred but also were informed of the prank before it took place, according to O'Shaughnessy. She said Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay was aware of the scheme.

While some pranks like the food fight have been strictly punished, others have been enjoyed by students and administrators alike.

"In the past, I think the best prank was the one... when they did the bouncy balls. It was great because it was just harmless fun," Reecer said.

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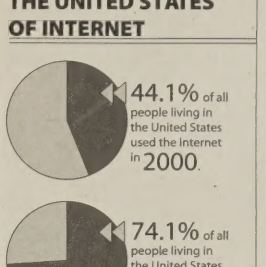
the GLIMPSE

Recently winning the 2010 Kentucky Republican Senatorial primary, Rand Paul, son of Ron Paul and ophthalmologist turned politician, has taken a stance on private property and civil rights. Paul has stated that he agrees with nine of the ten titles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and would have voted for the Act in its initial form, but disagrees with the preservation of civil rights when it comes to private businesses that provide public services or accommodations.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

Tiered Internet would bring disastrous consequences

THE UNITED STATES OF INTERNET


44.1% of all people living in the United States used the Internet in 2000.
74.1% of all people living in the United States used the Internet in 2009.

By Kirsten Overdahl
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Freedom of speech is one of the most highly prized protected rights in this country – it is the means by which Americans may exercise many of their other Constitutional rights. Much of free speech today is exercised through the Internet, where the web makes a world of information available and where anyone may place information. Shortly, in an upcoming Congressional bill, and the latest installment of an ongoing debate since 2006, opponents of network neutrality will use their fear of government regulation to exaggerate net neutrality's purpose and work against a system that would in fact protect the rights they fear will be taken away.

Network neutrality, commonly referred to as net neutrality, upholds the essence of the First Amendment by arguing for broadband providers such as Verizon, Comcast, and AT&T to be unbiased in the information that they send over their networks and to operate under implemented regulations. Net neutrality supports the idea that no information should be prioritized over other information, and in doing so, advocates for no tolerance of Internet discrimination.

Opponents of net neutrality, who pin the concept as government regulation, fear that net neutrality will mutate the Internet out of its present state of all-access free information. Network neutrality, however, is distinctly different from government regulation. Company regulations appear to be the only way to prevent already-powerful companies from damaging free access. Although opponents fear that regulations for companies would impede the freedom associated with the Internet, regulations would uphold the status quo of the Internet as a network for free speech.

In an attempt to table possible net neutrality regulations, opponents propose a tiered Internet system in which all Internet proceedings would be controlled by the producers and consumers of the information itself, not by the intermediary network provider. This proposition is valid only until the alarming realities of a tiered Internet are highlighted.

Tiered Internet would require content providers to pay a fee depending on the quality of service that they wish their information to receive, and the cost would then bounce back to the consumer. Internet users, who now currently pay a flat rate for their Internet service, would have to choose how much money they would be willing to spend for the quality of their information. The less expensive services would receive information from a lower tier, and if tiered Internet were to be implemented without any net neutrality in place, there would be very little, if any, reason for telecommunications companies not to degrade the lower tier services.

Proponents of tiered Internet believe that the structure is a natural step in the free market system, a way by which competition increases and services flourish. If anything, however, creating a tiered Internet system will hurt the market by minimizing competition and instead upholding a new form of monopoly. Consumer prices, which under current circumstances would normally decrease when faced with competition between network providers, will remain high due to reduced competition. Internet users would consequently have to pay multiple times for the same service, and the consumers, not the broadband companies, would feel the extra cost.

Net neutrality must be upheld and distinguished from government regulation efforts. If broadband companies have the power to determine what consumers can and can't see through tiered Internet systems, the quality of the information at consumers' fingertips will inevitably be determined by their wallets, not by their Constitutional rights.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 threatened by Rand Paul's recent senatorial success

By Chrissy Verhoff
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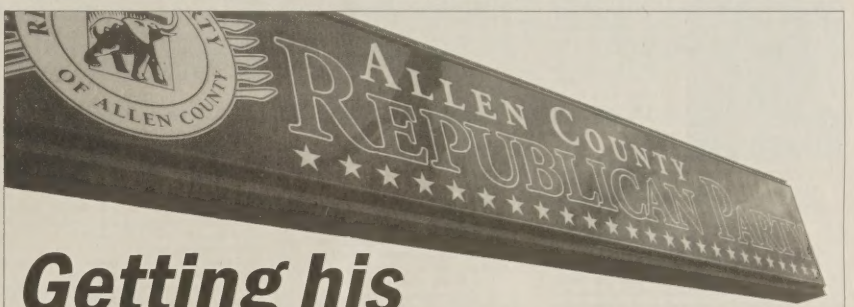
Contrary to the beliefs of many, Rand Paul, Kentucky's Senate candidate for the Republican Party, is not racist himself; however, we should be concerned about the possible consequences of his highly criticized political ideals, specifically, his stance on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Despite the fact that this piece of legislation was a critical step in providing minorities with equal protection under the First Amendment, Paul disagrees with one part of the act – Title II, which makes discrimination by private businesses illegal. Like several other political views, it makes sense in theory: just as a person has his First Amendment rights, a private business not funded by the government, Paul believes, should have those rights as well. The view sounds nearly logical, but when applied to the real world, it is anything but that.

58.8

was the percent of the vote with which Rand Paul won the 2010 Kentucky Republican Senatorial primary.

Just as a person has the right to refrain from speaking to someone of another race, it would almost make sense for a business to have the right to choose what types of people with whom it involves itself. Those who believe in this idea must not have considered the consequences of actually give this right to businesses. While racist or discriminatory business owners would have the right to express their extreme views, the effect on victims of the discrimination would be unbelievable, and for many, unbearable. Without the ability to fight for their right to work at private businesses, minorities would see great rises in unemployment rates, affecting the communities they live in as well.

In addition to a worsening of America's already painful economic crisis, the diversity among individual businesses and communities would weaken, reintroducing the U.S. to social hardships that were overcome years ago. Rather than pointing out what he believes is a weakness in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Paul should be praising it and its success in preventing unfair discrimination, especially in private businesses. After all, why would any candidate wish to "fix" an effective and popular piece of legislation, enacted nearly fifty years ago? Luckily, Paul says he "will not support any efforts to repeal the Civil Rights Act of 1964." Of course, the media has blown Paul's previous statement out of proportion, causing widespread belief that he is a hateful racist trying to bring back the days of segregation and Jim Crow Laws. But in reality, Paul is a typical politician, who perhaps needs to think before he speaks on major television programs.



Getting his AFFAIRS in order

Souder's resignation prompts unwanted, costly election

By Celia Grundman
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I once held a small measure of respect for Mark Souder. He may have been a buffoon, but he was a well-intentioned and moral buffoon – or so I believed. This was the man, now hypocrite of hypocrites, who touted the Bible as the "inerrant, perfect, revealed Word of God and [is] our number-one guidebook." After his affair with a staffer was revealed, he promptly resigned, stating that "I am resigning rather than to put my family through that painful, drawn-out process."

He didn't quit for his family, who he claimed would be hurt by the "poisonous environment" of Washington. He quit to avoid an investigation by the House Ethics Committee, and in doing so presented Indiana's third District with a contemptible dilemma. Do we have a special election as soon as possible, at extravagant cost to the taxpayers, or go without representation for 165 days?

Democratic candidate Tom Hayhurst called for a special election posthaste, as expected – if he were to win (the odds of which are higher when the opponent has had barely any time to campaign), the Democratic Congressional Committee would have showered him with funds in an attempt to keep the seat. And so, he stressed disenfranchisement.

> "I once held a small measure of respect for Mark Souder. He may have been a buffoon, but he was a well-intentioned and moral buffoon — or so I believed."
>
> **CELIA GRUNDMAN**
> *Opinion Editor*

Wise Republicans, conversely, want to distance Souder's disgrace from their party until it is a distant memory in the minds of voters – therefore, they wish for the special election to be stalled for as long as possible. And so, Governor Mitch Daniels stresses the severe cost of the election – which, political motivations aside, is a highly valid reason.

In the end, Daniels made the sensible choice and scheduled the special election for the same day as the upcoming general election on November 2. In doing so, he saved the 3rd District's counties from an estimated $540,000 in costs, as calculated by the Journal Gazette. It was the most pragmatic solution possible, given the grim state of the economy.

Hayhurst called for Souder to pay for the costs, rather unrealistically, which was likely his intention – it brings attention to the predicament Souder has placed us in. Around 750,000 Hoosiers will be temporarily disenfranchised: but as Daniels said, "The grounds for this decision are: the cost to taxpayers, the convenience of the voting public, and the involvement of the largest possible number of citizens in the selection of a new congressman. It seems to me that these interests outweigh any gains from having a member of Congress present for what would amount to no more than 20 voting days."

15

is the number of candidates looking to replace Mark Souder as the U.S. representative of Indiana's 3rd district.

Currently, there are 15 candidates vying to be the Republican nominee, who will be chosen by a caucus on June 12. Bob Thomas, news anchor Ryan Elijah, Fort Wayne City Councilwoman Liz Brown, state Sen. Marlin Stutzman, and state Rep. Randy Borror are among the hungry mob.

My bet's on Stutzman. The best choice for the Republican Party, he's had a fair amount of publicity from his recent statewide Senate campaign, and unlike Bob Thomas he's actually from around here. The odds are in his favor.

Still, once nominated he'll have to run against Dr. Tom Hayhurst – who is rapidly becoming a formidable opponent – in the general election. Stutzman's tea party dogma, with any luck, will be surpassed by Hayhurst's dedication to bringing jobs to northeast Indiana, especially via environmentally friendly avenues such as "beef[ed] up" rail transportation and green technology.

Souder's betrayal was deplorable, his resignation devastating. Daniels solved it the best he could – now, it's time to move on.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECE

Separation of church and state lost on Greenwood High School's graduation ceremony

The Ed Board
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Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

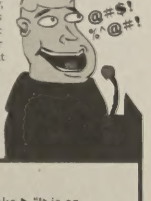
Virtually all high schools – Homestead included – screen students' graduation speeches for grammar, length, and content. One central Indiana high school, however, will leave everything to the students this year, ostensibly in support of free speech; in reality, Greenwood High School has gone to ludicrous lengths to skirt the separation of church and state.

Eric Workman, valedictorian and commencement speaker for Greenwood, had filed a lawsuit against the school for planning a graduation prayer which was voted for by the students (a longstanding tradition), and Judge Sarah Evans Barker ruled in his favor. It was shortly thereafter that the school decided not to screen speeches, regardless of any profanities or politics or – one can infer – religious sentiments. While refusing to give a reason for the change, Superintendent David Edds insists that "it's the First Amendment, freedom of speech." And yet, as the lawsuit noted, the school "subjected religious practice to a majority vote." In doing so, the school oppresses the free speech and views of the minority.

If a student reads a prayer, this sneaky school won't be held liable, despite numerous court cases and a 2002 Supreme Court ruling outlawing graduation prayers. A Greenwood pastor, Rev. Shan Rutherford, inanely claims that Workman was "trying to go with minority rule. To me, that's wrong in a democracy, one that was founded on Christian principles." Actually, it's not minority rule if it's not meant to occur in the first place – which Rutherford would know if he'd heard of the First Amendment and the Establishment Clause.

Oddly enough, Greenwood High School's change does have some good points. We believe schools should screen for grammar and length, but not so much for content as long as it does not encourage discrimination, violence, and the like. Profanities and political espousals, while perhaps not appropriate in most situations, should be allowed. Unlike state-sponsored prayer, it's legal. University of Arizona associate professor Sandra Soto recently delivered one such politically charged graduation speech against the new immigration laws – and in this case, it was highly appropriate. That's real free speech, not selective religious views forced on an unwilling minority.

Greenwood High, weaseling through a loophole to avoid responsibility, not so noble. Still, it's not a perfect loophole: they may get their graduation prayer, but valedictorian Workman will likely have something to say about it – after all, they can't screen him.



{THE BOTTOM LINE} *Greenwood High's push of religion on the minority is highly inappropriate.*

the facebook crawl

Derek Luttrell

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "If you could summarize the last four years with a Lady Gaga lyric, which one would it be?"

Albert Jennings ▶ "Eyes are stickin' like honey on bees, look at that, look at how they lookin' at me. . . (is that conceited?)"

Brian Landrigan ▶ "Sa-sa-sa-sarch face, sa-sa-sa-sa-sarch face."

Sonya Joseph ▶ "This one goes out to you, Derek — 'Stop callin', stop callin'."

Arpita Bhardwaj ▶ "I love this record, baby, but I can't see straight anymore."

Justice Martin ▶ "'Poker Face,' because the whole time I was trying to trick the teachers into thinking I was doing something every day in high school."

Demri Braun ▶ "I don't know what mine is. I do know Repka's, though — 'Alejandra, Alejannndra.' Wait, is that how the song goes?"

Chris Blake ▶ "It is so strange the way things turn."

Allie Bley ▶ "Alejandro, Alejandro... Ah. Spring Break '09."

Jenna Banas ▶ "Just dance. Gonna be okay. Da da doo doo. Just dance."

CARTOON BY CAM CAMERON

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY BEN MARESELL

The Windsong Film Festival is yet another example of a local event where the majority of the Southwest community is unaware. Recently taking place for the eleventh consecutive year at IPFW, familiar names were mentioned and given prestigious honors. A film team from advanced film and video class were among a select group of Homestead students that were honored with awards, but were the only group that left with more than one award.

Literature gives words of English language hope, confidence for future

PAGEBOUND

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

Someone once told me that I don't read books; I read literature. I've been called a book snob, a book hipster, a book racist. However, it doesn't bother me in the least – after all, there needs to be someone willing to stand up for good literature when desolate modern standards seek to tarnish it.

Perhaps this is why Pablo Neruda gives me such hope for the future of literature. His poems are tender, sensuous and passionate. His fervent love of language positively seeps through the pages of his collections. Neruda's words are so lush that I am helplessly drawn back to his poetry, ruminating endlessly over the richness of his verses. The fact that Neruda became one of the most widely celebrated poets of his generation imbues me with hope, with a confidence that writers of artistic uprightness, even in an era of "whodunits," can achieve the recognition they so deserve.

Writers such as Michael Chabon, Nicole Krauss, Jonathan Safran Foer and Michael Ondaatje are bending over backwards to usher literary fiction into the twenty-first century, and I think they've done so with exceptional elegance and utmost grace. Authors of stylistic literature bare their souls in their breathtaking grasp of the English language, and it shows. Writing with integrity and complexity lends heart to a work of literature; it does not cloud the meaning, but rather illuminates it in beautiful and immeasurable ways. As Ondaatje once said, words "give clarity, bring reason, create shape."

We need not all be economical of words. We need not all be action writers. Neruda once stated: "You can say anything you want, but it's the words that sing." My life has always been one long, adoring love affair with the English language and its exquisitely idiosyncratic trappings; words enrapture me, beguile me, sing to me, fairly leap off the page at me. I was guilty of reading the dictionary as a child, and I still do it. Something as simple as writing ten pages can, for me, fill a month; I take time to string the right words in the right order with the right emotional connotation. It's a careful, painstaking, conscientious art, and it may be the long way around, but I thoroughly love, venerate and appreciate the craftsmanship of everything I read and write. I don't know many who can say the same thing.

Reading and writing are, in my opinion, momentous acts of faith and optimism. Reading requires faith in the author, a steadfast belief that the work will ultimately resolve itself. Writing requires tremendous optimism, a conviction that what one is doing is worthwhile. And, while students may scoff now, it is so, so very worth it.

No one will be waxing poetic about Janet Evanovich in fifty years. I hope they'll be waxing poetic about writers with integrity, maybe even me. Reading and writing cerebral literature certainly isn't easy, but reading shouldn't be easy – it should be rewarding. Rewarding works are the ones the world is still reading, that have endured. Works of art always endure.

PHOTO BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY | PHOTO WWW.BLOGSPOT.COM

Teachers look forward to busy summer months full of exciting plans

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

It won't just be students counting down those last seconds before the clock strikes 2:35 on June 11. Teachers have exciting summer plans of their own.

Art teacher Sarah Jones is starting her summer early. She leaves today to accompany Michael Buchanan (12) to New York City, where he'll be receiving an award.

"Michael won the National Silver Medal," Jones said. "So I get the National Scholastic Art Teacher Award for being his teacher."

Buchanan won two National Silver Medals, one for his portrait of English teacher Scott Hill and one for his entire portfolio.

"I'm not surprised that Michael won because he's amazingly talented. I'm just surprised that someone from Homestead won since it's been 15 to 20 years since that has happened," Jones said.

Besides attending the award ceremony at Carnegie Hall, Jones will be seeking out every art activity possible.

"I'll be revitalizing my creative flow and bringing back new inspiration for my students," Jones said.

Jones plans to see the rock musical "Rock of Ages" on Broadway and attend seminars available for National Gold and Silver Medal winners and their teachers.

"Different artists open up their studios for studies and lectures," Jones, who will be learning how to prepare National Award-winning portfolios, said.

Though her New York trip will only last for four days, Jones has a busy summer to keep her active.

"I'm going to facilitate a youth art program that specifically targets free and reduced-lunch students," Jones said. "This program is for students who wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise."

Jones isn't the only teacher spending her summer finding ways to help students.

Drama teacher Victoria "Maloodles" Malooley is participating in the National Writing Project.

"I originally applied for a grant to visit Europe, but I didn't get it," Malooley said. "But I was really lucky to receive this other grant from the National Writing Project."

The National Writing Project helps teachers and educators become better writers so they can teach their newfound skills to their students.

"I'm taking grad courses through the Apple Seed Writing project. It's Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 4:00, just like a full-time job," Malooley said.

She'll learn new techniques and practice her writing for her English 12 class.

"It's a great way for me to work on my own writing," Malooley said. "It's hard to get my students to enjoy writing."

However, the National Writing Project won't be taking up Malooley's whole summer. She's also going to Washington D.C. on vacation.

"With the rest of my summer, I'm going to lock myself in a room and watch as many plays as possible so I can decide what next year's play will be," Malooley said.

Orchestra teacher Brad Wadkins will be enjoying shows as well. He'll be spending part of his summer in the dry heat of Las Vegas, Nevada.

"A friend and I first went to Las Vegas fourteen years ago," Wadkins said. "It's been our annual Father's Day trip since then."

Though this trip requires him to miss Father's Day festivities with his two children, Wadkins insists that they're "cool with it."

"When in Las Vegas, I like to game and eat at the great restaurants there," he said.

Additionally, Wadkins goes to see shows, such as Cirque de Soleil, of which he's seen five.

"The best thing about Las Vegas is that it's not Fort Wayne," Wadkins said. "But I wouldn't take my kids until they turn 21. It's not a family destination."

Wadkins will have plenty of time to spend with his kids for the rest of the summer before band camp begins.

"The best part about summer is that I get a lot of time with my family, and I get to relax."

PHOTO BY BEN MARESELL

Top: Victoria Malooley helps Justin Norris (11) with a project in class. Malooley plans on taking classes this summer to help bring new ideas to her English class. Above: Sarah Jones and Michael Buchanan (12) will be traveling to New York City where Buchanan will receive an award for his art.

PHOTO BY BEN MARESELL

Film receives unexpected award

Students surprised by recognition at local film festival

BY ALEX BARNARD
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

It is not very often that one is entered in a competition by someone else and then surprisingly wins. Despite the probability of such an event, that is precisely what happened to Ryan Cordes (12), David Wirtner (12) and Andrew Yde (11), who won first place at the Windsong Film Festival in the category of comedy with their silent film and second place for their claymation movie.

"I found out the day before the competition that the talented Mrs. Ricker had entered our films," Wirtner said.

The Windsong Film Festival is held annually at IPFW. Michael Floyd, founder of Windsong Pictures, began the festival to offer short films to the public at no cost, and the event has now expanded to include international films. Some films entered in the festival have received recognition as great as an Academy Award. This year, there were two festivals: student and independent films could be entered in the categories of drama, comedy, documentary, frontier, animation, music video or news format.

The silent film made by Cordes, Wirtner and Yde centers around basketball and features all three in the film. Despite opposition from Cordes to the idea, Wirtner and Yde decided to use basketball, which in turn led to an award-winning silent film.

"Yde thought it would be funny to make a movie in which he would be better than David and I at basketball. So we built a story off of that," Cordes explained.

Until enrolling in Mrs. Ricker's Film and Video class, none of the group members had much past experience with filmmaking. After students take Beginning Film and Video, they have the opportunity to enroll in Advanced Film and Video, which gives them the chance to make more complex and difficult films.

"The silent film was definitely a much more enjoyable experience," Yde said. "The claymation was tedious and slow-going for the most part."

Claymation is one of the more long term and involving projects in the class and takes upwards of nine weeks to complete. Students make small clay figures and design sets; they then make a film using stop-motion animation techniques. Despite the long process, the final product shows the hard work put in, especially for this group in particular, as its members were awarded for the grueling effort.

"The claymation probably took in excess of fifteen hours to design the set, shoot hundreds if not thousands of separate frames and add in sound effects," Yde explained.

The Cordes, Wirtner and Yde trio was not the only group to win an award. A total of seven groups from Homestead won awards at the 11th annual festival, but Cordes, Wirtner and Yde were members of the only group to pick up two awards.

The Windsong Film Festival is an opportunity for the hard work of students to be showcased and awarded. Partaking in the Film and Video class gives students the opportunity to participate in the international competition.

"Film and Video is a great class to take and is taught by one of our favorite teachers," Wirtner said.

From left to right: David Wirtner (12), Andrew Yde (11) and Ryan Cordes (12) were entered into the annual Windsong Film Festival by Lisa Ricker, film and video teacher. The boys took first place for their silent film in the comedy category and second place for their claymation film.

Local choir represents U.S. overseas in games

Voices of Unity bound to China

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Monumental opportunities offered by extracurricular activities are often momentous events, but especially momentous are those that take the student out of Indiana, much less out of the country. The Voices of Unity Youth Choir has been chosen to represent the United States in Shaoxing, China, for the sixth World Choir Games, which are the Olympics of the choral field. The choir has worked extremely hard to get where they are today and will keep working to be better.

"This is a token to reward the children for their hard work and effort. This is an extremely significant event, to be participating at this very high level of competition. Going to the World Choir Games will be an exciting journey," Marshall White, choir director, said.

"We have spent years training for this. We wanted to achieve excellence and go international."

MORAA BAHIZI (11)
Voices of Unity Youth Choir Member

The members of the choir have worked hard to achieve this once in a lifetime opportunity; right now, the choir is practicing for three hours every Saturday and Sunday in order to work around the school schedules of the students involved. On June 8, the choir will begin meeting Monday through Thursday for five weeks to practice their routine. The group will spend their summer working hard on becoming the best, and when they leave for China in July, they will attempt to prove that their grueling work has paid off.

"This is a really important event for me. This choir was started in 2000. We have performed regionally before, but not internationally. Our music has been based off of a variety of artists. The hard work we have put into the choir has paid off," Aaryn Eady (11), member of the choir, said.

Not only is the choir practicing for the World Choir Games, but members are also learning about the Chinese culture. The Voices of Unity Youth Choir will be in China from July 15-26.

"We have had three sessions to learn some of the culture, the language and what to expect in China. This is going to be a life-changing event and will open a door to new possibilities," Moraa Bahizi (11), member of the choir, said.

The World Choir Games began in Linz, Australia in 2000 and has occurred every other year since. Ninety countries take part in the Games, including the United States. The judges must choose from over four hundred choirs, awarding winners with one of three medals: gold, silver and bronze. The motto of the World Choir Games is "Singing together brings nations together." The Games are sponsored by INTERKULTER, which is dedicated to bringing the world together in song.

"We are empowering youth soulful choir groups. We have spent years training for this. We wanted to achieve excellence and go international. We finally did it!" Bahizi said.

The Unity Youth Choir is going to put in hard work over the summer to be the best they can be at the World Choir Games. Working over the summer can be boring and uninteresting, but getting the chance to go international, members of the choir consider it a worthwhile sacrifice.

"I have been singing with the Unity Youth Choir for five years. I am used to the hard practices, but this is beyond me," Eady said. "Our choir is trying to be the best and I'm prepared for that challenge."

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

The boys' golf team pulled off a nearly impossible feat last Friday at the sectional championship. The team shot an even par, along with Jon Finley (11), and Tom Kocks (11) both shooting 31 on the front-nine. Multiple school records, both team and individual, were broken throughout the course of that night. After advancing past the sectional round, the team will need to win at regionals if they hope to continue their season.

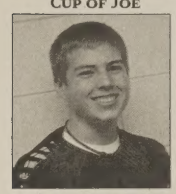
[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Homestead golfer shows talent and poise during high school golf season

Try to the name the person I'm thinking of. He's on the Homestead varsity golf team. After getting cut his freshman year, he came back and made the team for both his sophomore and junior seasons. He's part of the team that placed sixteenth at the state championship last season and part of the team that placed second in the NHC Conference and first in the Sectional Championship this season.

Still having trouble putting a name on the face? He shot the low-score on the team and fifth place overall at the Legends Golf Course for the Spring Invitational with a 76 earlier this season. For the first time in his high school career, he is NHC first-team all conference. And last Friday, he shot 66 and placed first overall in the Sectional Championship.

CUP OF JOE



In case you haven't figured out who it is by now, I'm talking about Tom Kocks (11). He's one of the most underrated Homestead athletes I know, and he is one of the hardest-working golfers you'll ever meet.

Coincidentally, the first time Tom ever played golf was with me a little over three years ago. We played the par-three course at Brookwood, which is the second shortest course in Fort Wayne with the shortest being the Putt-Putt course on Coliseum Road. When we were hitting into the greens, I was hitting nine-irons and wedges while Tom was hitting five-irons and five-woods. When we had finished the round, Tom told me he was going to try out for the golf team, and I couldn't believe it. I went through that following winter hearing stories from Tom about how he was taking lessons and traveling down south to play more rounds. To think that I went from being skeptical on whether or not he would make the team, to seeing him shoot scores in the low 70's, placing in multiple tournaments and now being a part of the first-team in the NHC Conference is almost unbelievable.

Here's what makes Tom different than nearly all Homestead athletes: He's one of the only 17-year-old athletes that I know who is surprisingly humble. Unlike most athletes I write about, this column wasn't written upon special request. He even thanked me for interviewing him. When I send out an interview, one of two things happens. Generally, I won't receive a response because most of the primadonna wonder kids at Homestead are too busy to respond to a simple five-question interview. Or, the response fully revolves around how well their personal season is going, with little mention of the team's entire performance. You'd be surprised to see how many athletes I've interviewed who don't even know their team's own record. When I asked Tom about playing the No. 3 spot on the team, Tom responded, "It's not really about the spot, and I don't mind playing No. 3 at all. I just like doing my job, and I hope that the whole team comes out on top." Somebody pinch me.

What Tom lacks in talent, he makes up for with his work ethic. I remember all of the countless times he would tell me that he had spent the previous night at the Bobick's driving range or buying bucket after bucket at The Golf Dome. Having talent is only temporary, but work ethic transcends beyond the high school golf team. Tom is lucky. He has both.

While Homestead has a poor reputation of the attitudes of our athletes, we're lucky to have guys like Tom who offset this one-sided scale. I'm lucky to have Tom as a friend, and even luckier to be able to write about all he's done. After I was finished interviewing him, he said, "Thanks man, I really appreciate all of this." I said, "Don't thank me, you deserve it."

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

COMING SOON PAY TO PLAY

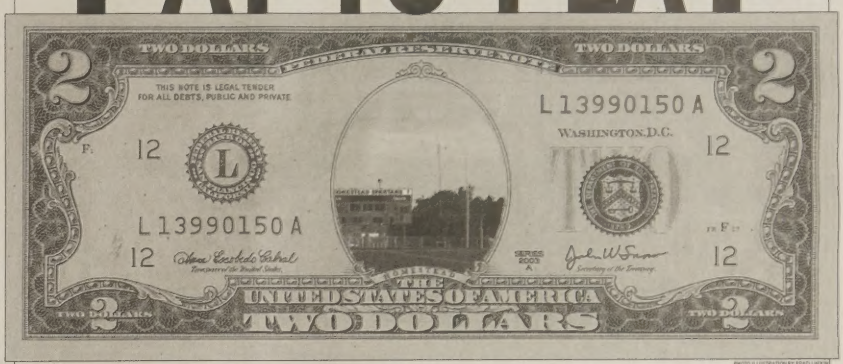


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD LARSON

Athletes may start dishing out for sports as early as 2011

BY MAX ISROFF
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

As Southwest Allen County Schools dwindles to a new financial low each year, a new series of cuts will begin as early as next year. Part of the projected three-tier system to cut school costs includes a new system of "pay-to-play" sports, which appear to be inevitable for future Spartan athletes.

"Unless the state budget changes next year, it is almost inevitable that pay-to-play sports will be put into place following the next school year," Principal Rick Smith said. "Sadly, it is something we are unable to avoid. As much as we do not want to see it implemented, there is nothing we can do about it. It's either implement pay-to-play sports or begin to cut entire sports programs."

As of now, no system has been set up for the exact procedure for pay-to-play sports, it would be expected that athletes would be charged to cover around twenty percent of the costs of the program. In other words, programs such as football or baseball in which the costs are higher would require students more to attend games, and athletes would be required to pay a certain amount for each season. Another deciding factor on how much students would pay to play their respective sport includes the amount of students on the team. The more students, the more the costs can be split up, and vice versa.

Although Athletic Director Joe Updegrove does not believe that participation in sports programs would fall, he is quick to point out that the money from students who currently pay to play still does not cover his operating costs.

"In most programs where students pay to play, the money from the students paying to play does not cover equipment or maintenance costs. It only covers the coaches' salaries," Updegrove said. "This means that we would still rely on the booster club and ticket sales to cover these fields. One of my concerns is that if a family already paying a certain amount of money for their athlete to play in a sport would still be willing to become a sponsor of the booster club. If we lose sponsors for the booster club, then the pay-to-play sports program does not really solve many problems for our athletic department."

> "As much as we do not want to see it implemented, there is nothing we can do about it. It's either implement pay-to-play sports or begin to cut entire sports programs."
>
> **RICK SMITH**
> *Principal*

The Homestead Athletic Boosters club could not be reached for comment on this story, but in an article run earlier this year in the Spartana, reporters investigated exactly how much the booster club financially helps the athletic department. The booster club helps finance many areas of the department through fundraisers and parent membership which, if it declined, would noticeably affect Homestead athletics.

One student also brings up another issue with pay-to-play sports.

"I already pay a good amount to play club soccer and to travel with that team. If I would also have to pay to play for Homestead, I would have to consider not doing travel soccer, which is where I train to become better for the high school season," Frankie Zirrille (10) said. "It's kind of like a huge cycle where no matter what happens, I am still at a disadvantage."

The current sophomore class will be seniors when pay-to-play sports will be initiated if the budget does not change.

Parent and administrator Steve Lake also points out that students who play multiple sports would be affected. Parents who have multiple students would be put in a tough financial situation.

"As a parent, I have a student who plays in two sports, which means double the money. We would have to consider only letting him play one sport," Lake said.

20
The estimated percent that each team would have to cover for their season.

The worst part about the pay-to-play sports situation is the unknown. It is currently unknown exactly how much students will have to pay per sport. The question also rises of what the third tier could bring, such as higher transportation fees and equipment fees, if the pay-to-play plan is only tier two. Whatever the case, pay-to-play sports is likely coming soon, and only a miracle could prevent it.

Former Homestead student presents colors at Washington Nationals games

BY JACOB COOK
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While most Homestead graduates follow their life's path to higher education and universities for academics or athletics, other students choose to dedicate themselves to the country's armed services. Of the four 2009 Homestead graduates last year who went to the military, Nick Jones ('09) was the only former student to move on to the Coast Guard. Graduating at the top of his class, Jones was selected for the prestigious Honor Guard, an elite unit that presents the Coast Guard's colors at important national events. His most notable duty, however, is the work he does with the Washington Nationals. Jones has presented the Coast Guard's flag at five home games for the Nationals this season, including Opening Day.

Opening Day at Nationals Park, the home stadium of the Washington Nationals, remains one of the busiest days of Jones' Honor Guard career. Jones presented the flag of the Coast Guard in what is known as a Joint Service operation, where one flag bearer from each branch of the military presents their respective flags. The particularly special part of that day for Jones was seeing President Obama throw the first pitch of the game.

"There was security everywhere, as you can imagine," Jones said. "Having President Obama there added a ton of extra excitement to the job." Marching out from the visitor's tunnel, Jones and the other flag bearers stood directly behind home plate in front of the massive crowd that the game hosted.

After presenting the colors, every member of the Joint Service operation was offered box seats, the same seats offered to Obama. However, Jones' busy schedule left him traveling to New York immediately for a military funeral. Despite missing the opportunity to meet Obama, Jones has presented the Coast Guard flag at five other Nationals games and has taken advantage of his free box seats at every other game.

"Everything since opening day has been strictly Coast Guard, and we've actually been offered better stuff since then." Jones said.

As a former athlete himself, Jones especially favors the time he spends working at Nationals games. Because the Honor Guard has him occupied and kept under a tight chain of command, the time for recreation or any sport-related activity is minimal. His reconnection with the world of sports has brought new light to his military service.

"Staying at games gives us all a chance to unwind and catch up on all of our favorite sports that we're missing," Jones said. "While they aren't a regularly occurring thing, National's games are definitely the high point of my job."

COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Nick Jones (2010) joined the Coast Guard after graduating last year. Left: Jones meets with Coast Guard members before game.

Semi-state tournament finishes tennis team's postseason stretch

BY CONNOR O'HARA
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The tennis program at Homestead has always prided itself on its intimidating reputation. For both the girls' team and the boys' team, Homestead tennis has always been a program that has thrived even when the other school sports programs seem to fall behind. The 2010 season for the Homestead girls' tennis team was no different than past years.

Homestead currently leads the state in semi-state titles, including last year. The Spartans currently possess 15 state titles, and the records predict that they will continue to stay in the top spot. The number-16 Spartans finished up their season with a record of 16-2. The Spartans also went on to claim yet another regional and sectional title.

"Winning regionals and sectionals was definitely one of the highlights of the season. Nothing felt better," Macy Johnson (10) said.

Johnson is a part of a growing trend not just for the Homestead girls' tennis team but for many of the school's sports as well. More sports are starting to approach their seasons with strong underclassmen.

If this trend continues, the strength of the Spartan girls' tennis team will grow exponentially in the coming years.

With sophomores like Johnson and freshmen such as Allison Overlander (9) and Hanita Epstein (9), the Homestead tennis program will give other state tennis a run for their money. The beautiful thing about this situation is that with such young players already performing at senior level, the coaches have extra time to perfect these players into one of the strongest unified forces in the state.

"The upper classmen were so supportive and encouraging. At first I didn't really know what to expect but I couldn't have asked for better team mates." Overlander said.

"I love how all of our younger team members are what make this team great. It really makes us look forward to our coming season and helps us realize how much potential we really have," Johnson said.

For years, people have always thought of Homestead tennis as one of the school's crowning achievements. With over 30 consecutive sectional titles for the boys' and girls' teams, the teams will likely not surrender their untarnished reputation anytime soon.

PHOTO BY SADIE KEELER

The girls' tennis team is pictured receiving their Regional Championship title plaque. The season ended after the semi-state match.

FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY SUZIE BELLER

Students have questions–The Spartana has answers. Reporters have set out to find out what remains unanswered from an eventful year. Staff writers have evaluated the effectiveness of a new dress code policy, the purpose of morning teacher meetings and the new ECA testing that replaced the previous ISTEP testing. While there's no way to know what will happen next year, this year's queries are certainly cleared up here.

{ FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET }

Did the new dress code violations REALLY work?

Students and teachers have had difficulties with the dress code, but this year's change regarding low cut shirts has eliminated another fashion option.

The student handbook's updated dress code rule states that students should lay a palm on their chest so that the index finger is on the collarbone. It goes on to say, "If the shirt falls below [the student's] pinky, it is considered too low cut to wear to school."

Some do not see this updated rule as a drastic change.

"The rule has not really changed anything. If teachers and the administration do not enforce the dress code right away, then the dress code is not that effective," Toiyonna Arias, Spanish teacher, said.

"One time I got a dress code violation and the administration did not tell me I had gotten one until a month afterwards," Madiee Jones (10) said. "I could not remember what I had worn that day. The dress code could be effective if violations were given the day the person wears the clothes or the day after, not a month after," she said.

Teachers do not always enforce the dress code. Some teachers just tell students what they are wearing is to short and to not wear it again. Others will report the violation to the administration.

"The dress code is strict, but it is not really followed. Some students get violations, while others don't. Generally students with bigger features get more violations than those with smaller features," said Jones.

Some students are not given their violations shortly after their dress code violation.

"Follow through time on dress code violations is too long, so it is not as effective as it should be," said Arias. – *Lexi Yanez*

Where are teachers before 7:50 a.m.?

Frustration is evident in the halls some mornings as students pace around waiting for teachers to return from their abundant morning meetings.

Teachers attend committee, department and faculty meetings, and even though one day a week is reserved for helping students, it still can be difficult for staff to handle this rigorous schedule.

"When it's four mornings out of the week, it can be overwhelming," Jamie Smith, Academy English teacher, said.

All teachers attend faculty meetings, where administrators share information and procedures, items that, as Smith puts it, can be "easily dispersed" in one big meeting. Sometimes presentations are given by committees, groups of teachers who focus on certain aspects of the school, including from transitions from the Academy to the main building to how parts of the school function.

Teachers also participate in department meetings, which have subcommittees. Smith said that the English department has its subcommittees divided by what classes a teacher instructs. In addition, Academy teachers assemble for House meetings, where they discuss when tests will be given and how to help struggling students.

Despite the positive work committees do to help students, some teachers can be annoyed with their frequency.

"Most [teachers] are resigned that they're there and not going away," Smith said. She said that ultimately, the meetings help get work done.

"They're never unnecessary," she said.

– *Molly Zweig*

Why was Fine Arts Day cancelled?

Generally each springs students get a break from classes to appreciate performances by the dance team, band, color guard, and show choir. Unfortunately, Fine Arts Day was cancelled.

"It wasn't fair to the people in fine arts," Erik Bailey (10), Class Royale member, said.

Many reasons have been cited for why the event fell through.

"It came down to scheduling conflicts," Curtis Shaw, show choir director, said. He said that the administration tried to move the event back a week due to choir and band state contests. However, there was another issue during the slated week.

"The problem was advisory was that week, and it would have taken kids out of class twice in one week," Shaw said.

Students, especially those who would have performed, were upset about Fine Arts Day.

"We hardly get any recognition for the work," Rachel Mantica (12), Class Royale member, said. She said that with budget cuts fine arts generally are deemed as unnecessary and are the first to go.

"We should be able to show the school why we need fine arts," she said.

Bailey was also frustrated with a missed opportunity.

"We should be able to express ourselves in front of the school," he said, "that's what fine arts does."

Shaw said that despite frustration, Fine Arts Day isn't dead yet.

"There was a fluke with the schedule," he said, "it's definitely on for next year." – *Molly Zweig*

Solomon Lin (11)

Christian Robinson (9)

Unanswered Questions

Each year students move through Homestead's halls, taking in information around them from classes, the news and other students. This school year, they've survived swine flu, the passage of health care and a massive oil spill. However, as classes tie up the loose ends of their curricula, many questions still remain from the year at Homestead.

Staff writers set out to answer this year's unanswered questions, ranging from the cancellation of Fine Arts Day, the identity of a new Facebook "friend" and the solution to a computer sickness. Students may have forgotten a time without drinks from the Darkroom or a world without ECA testing. While there's no crystal ball, knowing what happened before will help preview and predict what's to come.

Who is Michael Hunt?

During the past month, many students with a Facebook account received a friend request from a young man by the name of Michael Hunt. After reading into his profile, it was made clear that he previously attended DeSales High School in Louisville, Ky., as well as that he would be attending Homestead next year as a senior. After some research, it was discovered that no "Michael Hunt" been registered to attend Homestead next year. This poses the question: Who really is this elusive Facebook personality?

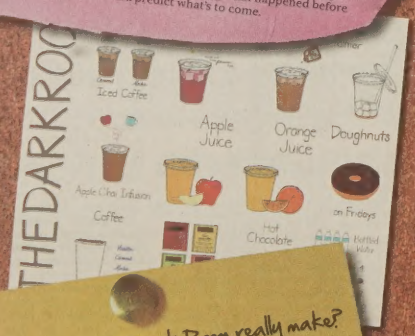
In addition to the countless awkward and often seemingly unprovoked conversations initiated by Hunt via Facebook chat instant messaging, many believe that this profile serves as no more than an elaborate hoax.

Originally, the Spartana intended to analyze Facebook's involvement in helping Hunt make friends at Homestead, so an interview was scheduled. However, whoever managed to attend this meeting in no way resembled the pictures that appeared on his Facebook page. Likewise, the mystifying interviewee gave information about Michael's past life that did not correlate with the information online. Curiously enough, when asked what school he attended in Louisville, "Michael" gave the name of a school that, indeed, does not exist. When asked to show some form of identification, "Michael" conveniently had none and refused to be photographed.

Initial contacts at Canterbury High School attempted to pin the profile scheme on a sophomore named Daniel Bainbridge, who was later described as the "quietest kid ever" and an unlikely culprit by an anonymous source. Mariah Widmer, a junior at Canterbury, later claimed that Bainbridge "has nothing to do with Michael Hunt." Another source who requested anonymity in exchange for revealing information subsequently confirmed that the cyberspace mastermind behind the Hunt character was among a list of four potential names compiled by Spartana staff. Simultaneously, Widmer stated two students of which she was certain were the faux-profile creators. The two names also happened to be on the suspect list verified by the second anonymous source.

Canterbury seniors Kevin Wynder and Sam Hockley are Michael Hunt. As always, keep it classy, Cavaliers.

– *Rachel Shinn and Patrick Svitek*



How much does The Dark Room really make?

Students drag themselves to school everyday, some barely awake and some desperately in need of coffee. Beginning in December, these coffee-seekers had somewhere to go at school.

Allison Baer (11) started the Darkroom after getting the idea for a Homestead coffeehouse and hearing interest from other students.

"I always liked the idea of having a coffee house," she said. Baer submitted a business plan to Jennifer Bay in November, marketing the coffee house as a way to help decrease the yearbook Retrospect's debt. The small store, housed in a small food stand near the gym, made about $2000 this year.

Yearbook staffers and others that Baer recruits run the Darkroom. They order the Tazo tea from an online Starbucks retailer and get the coffee and flavorings from local Starbucks locations.

"I have a really good relationship with the people at Starbucks," Baer said.

While Arnold Palmers, doughnuts and other hot drinks are the top sellers, Baer hopes to expand to new items next year.

"I would love to do smoothies," she said, but also said that there would need to be more space to house all the supplies needed. Though this year was a big success, Baer has a vision for next year, too.

"I'd love for it to eventually be a full-blown coffee house." – *Molly Zweig*

What is ECA and what happened to ISTEP?

Anticipation for the end of the year is quickly muted as students realize that they must once again take standardized tests. In past years, ISTEP+ tests were administered in the fall and in the spring. However, this year, freshmen and sophomores are taking ECA or End-of-Course Assessment tests instead. Despite the change in name, the ECA tests are an updated version of the old ISTEP+ tests.

The change from ISTEP+ tests to ECA tests has been a statewide change affecting all classes after the class of 2012. However, only high schools are using the new ECA tests. Elementary schools and middle schools are continuing to use the old ISTEP+ tests.

According to the Indiana Department of Education, the goal of the new ECA tests is to ensure that students are to meet the goals set by Indiana's Core 40 program.

Differences between ECA tests and ISTEP+ tests include modified testing to put a greater focus on what had been taught earlier in the school year. As with ISTEP+, Homestead requires students to pass ECA tests in order to graduate. Students must pass the Algebra I and English 10 ECA tests. Students also must take the Biology ECA test, required by the No Child Left Behind legislation. Similar to ISTEP+, students are allowed to retake ECA tests in order to get a passing grade.

Dianne Moake, assistant principal, says that the administration is "content" with the change. She also says that the ECA's are likely to continue next year.

Moake said, "The ECA is the new ISTEP+." – *Laura Zeng*

Was the flash drive virus ever solved?

Computers had their version of swine flu at Homestead this fall when the flash drive virus struck.

The virus, which was spread on students' portable file storage devices, would restart computers and frustrate students and teachers alike.

"It was one of the biggest problems on Homestead computers," Laura Johnson, Computer Specialist, said.

Installing a new virus scan on the computers, which was able to detect and then destroy the virus, finally solved the problem. Johnson said that installing MacAfee scan, the new program, was challenging because it involved removing the old virus software as well.

Ben Griffith (11) said that while the virus scan is a good idea, it is not currently being implemented properly.

"Having the software is great but doesn't do anything if [the scan's] not running," he said. Griffith said that the scan does not run automatically, leaving computers vulnerable to more viruses.

He also said that the virus probably did not cause a lot of damage but was just a hassle.

"It was more of a nuisance than anything else," he said.

Johnson said that the most difficult part of the whole ordeal was alerting computer users about the problem.

"Students and teachers... did not understand the severity of the problem," she said. In the future, Johnson said she hopes that these problems will not happen again.

"Before bringing flash drives to school," Johnson said, "students should check for viruses–it's just good practice."

– *Molly Zweig*

PHOTOS BY BETH HUBER, BEN MARSELL | WWW.FREEDOMFIGHTERSSKATEBOARDS.COM, WWW.BLOGS.KANSASCITY.COM

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Senior Spartana staff members bid farewell to the student publication that taught them more about life than journalism. 2A

LIFE
A series of surprising Spartana wins at the Windsong Film Festival in the short comedy category is no laughing matter. 4A

FEATURE
Contributing writers address Homestead's strangest mysteries of the school year, including the identity of Michael Hunt. 6A

OPINION
Kentucky Republican Senate candidate Rand Paul is far from a racist, but his political views must be closely monitored. 3A

SPORTS
Due to increasing district budget cuts, pay-to-play sports may be arriving at Homestead as early as next fall's athletic season. 5A

ONLINE
Read selections from the current issue, flip through archived editions and submit Letters to the Editor at www.thespartana.net.

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Survey: Students oppose meeting more for advisory

Less than one-quarter of students 'enjoy' activities

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The student body's dissatisfaction with advisory was again demonstrated, as the results of a related survey distributed to students and advisors were released May 24.

Less than 25 percent of students reported that they enjoyed advisory activities, while a similar number of advisors (23.2 percent) believed their students enjoyed the activities, according to the results. In addition to the low number of students who enjoyed advisory, only slightly more than half of students believed that they understood the basic purpose of advisory.

"I think all of [the results] show that students and teachers support ending advisory," Michael Kitch (9) said.

SEE 'SURVEY RESULTS,' PAGE 2A

MATTER OF WHEN

Below is the distribution of answers to the question of how often advisory should meet next school year.

Option	Advisers	Students
Monthly	31.1%	23.2%
Twice Monthly	31.1%	16.6%
Weekly	16.7%	22.3%

PARKING PENDING

Parking issues unlikely to be resolved by end of current school year

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor • copy@thespartana.net

Senior students receive many privileges that are deservingly awarded after three years of being underclassmen. One of the most cherished is the senior parking lot. In this lot, which is the closest to the school building of the three parking lots, seniors choose one spot in which they park for the whole year. However, current problems with the senior lot have caused the administration to reconsider continuing the lot.

Problems arise when many seniors have higher education, co-ops, Anthis, internships or a bad case of senioritis and do not come to school every day. There are often open spots closer to the school than the spots in the underclassmen parking lots. Underclassmen then park in the senior spots, putting more pressure on Officer Tinkle to patrol all of the lots.

"I don't have the manpower or the resources to be able to patrol the lots," Tinkle said. "Whether its people parking in other places or people not parking where they're supposed to park, I don't have the time to be able to manage it all. Also, because of the assigned parking, you can walk out [to the senior parking lot] on any given day, and you're going to have 100 empty spots out there. It's a waste of parking spots."

> "I don't have the manpower or the resources to be able to patrol the lots."
> **JEREMY TINKLE**
> *Resource Officer*

Juniors this year were irritated when the junior lot that they had seen their predecessors use was changed to a general lot for sophomores to use as well. Now, they are worried for the fate of the senior lot, too.

"I was angry this year when I saw that the junior lot was changed to a general lot, and now our senior lot might be taken away, too," David Libbing (11) said. "I don't feel like its fair that classes before us had privileges that we don't get to have."

The administration, however, will most likely not get rid of the senior lot in its entirety. They might just make minor tweaks to satisfy both the seniors and themselves. A group of students proposed a plan that hopefully will salvage the parking lot for next year's seniors.

"Max Isroff (11), Frankie Zirille (10), Joe Hanauer (11) and I [came] up with a plan to keep the senior lot next year," Paul Lee (9) said. "Our plan is to make the senior lot next year just a general lot for all of the seniors. If you do not have a pass to park in the senior lot, a boot will be placed on the tire of your car. This boot prevents you from driving anywhere until it is taken off, and you will have to pay a stiff fine to have the boot removed. This [plan] hopefully will prevent any future offenders. We have talked to the administration about this a few times and they like the idea of the boot and the general senior lot, because the last thing they want to do is take away the senior lot. We think this is the best solution to keeping everyone happy and mak-

SEE 'PARKING PENDING,' PAGE 2A

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY BEN WAKEFIELD

Seniors revel in final moments of high school years

Second-to-last school week devoted to 12th grade-only entertainment, activities

By Carrie Cummiskey
News Editor • news@thespartana.net

Senior Activities Day rewarded seniors with a day full of relaxation and entertainment on Wednesday, June 2. After working hard to make the day possible, parents, students and the administration were able to carry out the special day, which previously had conflicted with a new state-wide mandate that eliminated half-days from Indiana schools. However, seniors agreed that the day was flawless, even though they had to attend classes for two periods.

The day was sandwiched in the middle of a week that epitomized senioritis. Seniors had Monday off for Memorial Day, took Tuesday as a skip day and broke tradition by taking Friday as another skip day, when the majority of the seniors made a pilgrimage to Cedar Point. The only full day of classes for seniors was on Thursday, June 3.

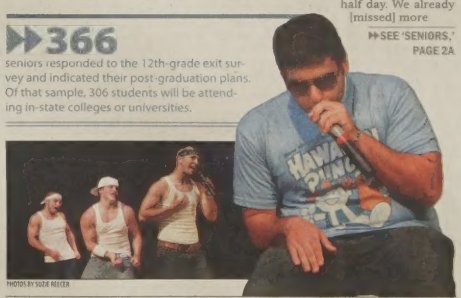
Senior Activities Day gave the seniors an opportunity to miss class and see their friends without using one of the ten coveted parent-excused absences. Most seniors agree that the day was a success.

In previous years, Senior Activities day was a half day, but a new state law banning half days caused seniors to be required to go to sixth and seventh periods after a morning of fun.

"The whole entire day [seemed] like it [was] filled with fun, but if I had to choose one [part], I would choose the activities, because I [had] no idea what we [were] doing, so it [was] like a pending secret," Susan Tsai (12) said. "I [didn't] really mind not having a half day. We already [missed] more

SEE 'SENIORS,' PAGE 2A

366
seniors responded to the 12th-grade exit survey and indicated their post-graduation plans. Of that sample, 306 students will be attending in-state colleges or universities.



PHOTOS BY SUSIE KEECER

Left: Seniors Ben Hazen, A.J. Terry and Brian Landrigan captivate the audience with their choreographed rendition of N'Sync's "Bye, Bye, Bye," a bittersweet reminder of the early millennium for their classmates. Right: Sohail Emamian (12) performs his beatboxing act during the Senior Variety Show. Toward the conclusion of the event, he was invited back onstage by Ahmed Tabron (12) for an impromptu beatbox battle.

BRIEFS

ACHIEVEMENTS IN CHEMISTRY
The northeastern Indiana chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) rewarded honored two juniors and one senior May 27 for excellence in chemistry studies. Solomon Lin (11) was awarded an $800 scholarship for winning the organization's Traveling Trophy and Jordan Mauk (11) was recognized with a $250 scholarship for placing fifth to his fellow junior. In addition, Melanie Johnston (12) secured a $100 check for excelling in the senior division of the ACS science fair.

END-OF-YEAR LOCKER SWEEPS
All students must clear out their lockers by June 11, the last day of school. Beginning the next day, custodians will start cleaning out the lockers themselves and throwing away whatever possessions may remain.

OVERDUE BOOKS
All outstanding library books are currently overdue and must be returned to the IMC as soon as possible.

PHOTO WWW.WORKSOIL.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM

failure to raunch

Class of 2010 avoids plotting pranks after past fiascos

By Joe Janizek
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

The end of the school year is traditionally signified by the discussion of vacation plans, stress over final exams and general enthusiasm for the summer. One end-of-year mainstay, however, has been noticeably absent from student discussion this year: the senior prank.

"I have heard about some possible pranks, but I am not sure if any of them will be done," Suzie Reecer (12), senior class president, said.

Senior pranks are more than just a way for students to have fun at the end of the school year. They also allow a class to make their mark on the school as they end their high school careers. This tradition may now be in the process of disappearing, though, as harsher punishments frighten students away from pulling pranks.

"Since the administration has become so strict these past few years, most students are afraid to do anything that will jeopardize getting to walk at graduation," Reecer said.

The possibility of pranksters not being allowed to walk at graduation was confirmed by assistant principal Jeff Kintz. Kintz, however, declined to comment more extensively on the subject.

"I'm not going to get into that senior prank stuff," Kintz said.

The threat of severe punishment has clearly been an effective deterrent, and students have cited past administrative reactions as a reason not to pull a prank.

"I always expect the administration to give a harsher punishment than truly necessary, especially after I saw what happened with the harmless food fight," Reecer said, referring to a food fight two years ago. Multiple students involved in the incident were suspended. One student, who did not take part in the food fight but recorded the event and uploaded the video to the internet, was threatened with not walking at graduation if the video was not removed.

At the very least, students have scaled back their pranks in the hope that moderation will save them from negative consequences.

"There used to be a television show on MTV that was all about classic pranks, and I think a lot of students think it would be fun to implement them, but most are so extreme that they couldn't be done," Reecer said.

Students have speculated on the best type of prank to pull that would minimize negative outcomes.

"Obviously if the prank causes a lot of trouble to the janitors, teachers and students, a harsher punishment will be

SEE 'SENIOR PRANK,' PAGE 2A

PRESENT SINCE KINDERGARTEN

Senior ending high school with 13-year perfect attendance

For the most part, senior year is about becoming infected with a serious case of senioritis and perfectly planning college visits and parent-excused absences to miss the maximum amount of school without getting a social worker called to the house. However, one senior, Will Boeckmann (12), knows nothing about cutting class. After sitting through class on PSAT day, during the swine flu scare and most recently on senior skip day, not only has Boeckmann not missed a day of school his senior year, he has not missed a day of school since kindergarten. Boeckmann has had 13 solid years of perfect attendance, and recently, at the academic awards night, the soon-to-be-graduating Boeckmann received an award for his mind-boggling feat.

> "It's really not that difficult [having perfect attendance]. A lot of feeling sick is in your head."
> **WILL BOECKMANN (12)**
> *Maintained 12 Years of Perfect Attendance*

Spartana: Have you really not missed a day of school since kindergarten?

Boeckmann: I've seriously never missed a day. I missed two periods in high school for a funeral and got suspended for two periods at Summit for spraying fart spray, though.

Spartana: What benefits have you experienced by having perfect attendance?

Boeckmann: Besides the awards and recognition, there's really not too many other benefits besides never having to make up work or tests, and [my perfect attendance] will look good on resumes for life.

Spartana: What did you do when you were sick?

Boeckmann: When I did get sick, which was very rarely, I would still obviously come to school ,anyway.

Spartana: What do you say to students who don't think that perfect attendance is possible?

Boeckmann: It's really not that difficult. A lot of feeling sick is in your head.

Spartana: Did you have anyone pushing you to have perfect attendance?

Boeckmann: My mother really pushed me.

Spartana: Do you feel like you missed out on anything by not participating in Senior Skip Day?

Boeckmann: It doesn't sound like I missed

SEE 'PERFECT ATTENDANCE,' PAGE 2A

FRAMING THE TIME

14,516
Number of days since Homestead opened its doors in 1970.

3,120
Number of days of U.S. military occupation of Afghanistan.

2,340
Number of school days Boeckmann has not missed.

505
Number of days since the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

51
Number of days since the start of the BP Gulf Coast oil spill.

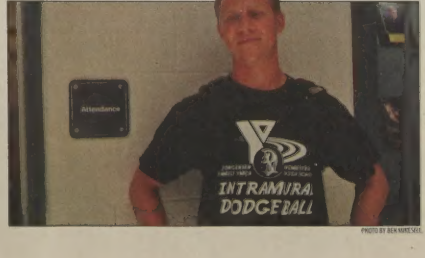


PHOTO BY BEN WAKEFIELD

Boeckmann (12) leans against the wall nearby the attendance window he has not had to visit since entering high school.

SENIOR FAREWELL COLUMNS

Graduating staff members reminisce about pub life

Confessions of a journalistic mind reveal 'subtle' presence

BY PATRICK SVITEK
Editor-in-Chief • psvitek@thespartana.net

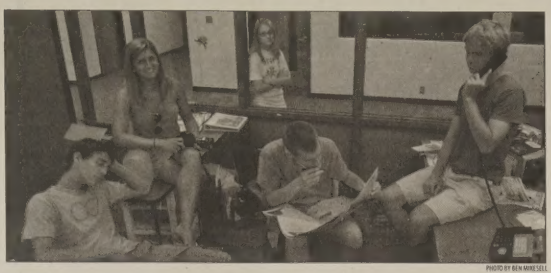


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Left to right: Senior Spartana staffers Andy Franklin, Suzie Reecer, Celia Grundman, Patrick Svitek and Derek Luttrell are caught in their natural environment.

Just like a perplexingly comical red-carpet photobomb or unexpected but still unwelcome Seth Green cameo, Journalism has maintained a subtle omnipresence in my life ever since I reviewed Jay-Z's "Black Album" in fifth grade (Bottom Line: The Cedric the Entertainer voiceovers were extraneous and the singles poorly selected). Behind every seemingly trivial moment throughout high school has been a PDF file submission. An 11th-hour addition to the News section. A pica mistakenly nudged one-twelfth of a pica – or 1/144 of an inch – in the wrong direction. A frantic 5:59 a.m. phone call to the publisher pleading for a deadline extension. An inadvertent flash drive failure punctuated by InDesign crashing.

Two autumns ago, I giddily watched the election of Our President and Divine Savior Barack Obama on MSNBC's online video player rather than the convenient television one room away while obsessively finalizing my third Spartana front page ever (That was way back when it was in vogue to admire the Change-peddling Hawaii native; now, if he still evokes a genuine smile on your rosy face, you're either contemplating Chicago's mayorship or not Glenn Beck). I learned of my initial college admission decision via mobile Internet after swerving off into a Burger King parking lot en route to my final assignment for a semester-spanning internship at the Bluffton News-Banner. The dire responsibilities of the Spartana even seeped into a Lupe Fiasco-inspired Windy City excursion, when I groggily scoured the Loop for a free WiFi connection in the same clothes in which I slept on the floor of the Palmer House Hilton.

And, yes, the first girl with which I ever substantially locked lips was at a 2008 National Scholastic Press Association convention soiree while Nate Dogg's mellifluous baritone on Eminem's "Ass Like That" rattled our hormonal instincts to the perspiring surface. She was in a senior position on a perennially acclaimed Kansas yearbook staff – at least that's what her glossy name tag read – so I briefly excused her for electing to spontaneously canoodle during the one line in which Marshall Mathers croons that eloquent simile involving a toilet seat.

Now that you're dry-heaving attempting to envision one of Homestead's three most slobbery classroom snoozers pivoting his face on anything other than Timothy Decker's back table, allow me to tame the rhetoric for a schmaltzy moment. With sincere honesty, I can admit that Journalism has exhaustively consumed me for the past two years. I've transformed into a sleepless perfectionist with an espresso dependency tripling your self-aware mother's Monday morning routine at the minimum (Real original, I know). I've erred on multiple occasions and sometimes outside the confines of excusability, where aggravated faculty and classmates are sometimes seething in vigil with both metaphorical and physical pitchforks. However, there has always been a somewhat reliable set of peers and mentors to cushion that descent to reality, to subliminally remind me that Journalism is a tormented passion whose ironic allure cannot always be articulated.

Thus, my ultimate departure from the infamous yellow room – or what's left of it after the tuna-can derby and ping-pong-table Five Knuckle Shuffle – is sincerely dedicated to the following personalities: To Bluffton News-Banner editor Dave Schultz, for justifying the microsleep-inducing trek on State Road 1 with a preprofessional journalistic experience worth every single byline; to News-Sentinel editor and IPFW journalism instructor Kerry Hubartt, who once bluntly informed me that "my audience wouldn't get" comparing Fort Wayne rap staple Sankofa to "a deflated John Goodman"; to my thankfully unperturbed neighbors, who probably witnessed me frantically pacing my bedroom (or cacophonously reciting Notorious B.I.G. verses) in nothing but boxers every other Thursday morning, hours before the publication deadline at 6 a.m.; to prank-call extraordinaire Jalen "Prewbag" Prewett, who is clearly not from Memphis, Tenn.; to business manager Max Isroff, who remains a stimulated devotee of "The Office," and sometimes not just the one in which Dundler Mifflin is contained; to the ever-so-obliging Unity Barbershop, at which Ice Cube is apparently not a permanent employee and "dougie" is not yet universally accepted vernacular; to assistant publications adviser Justin Peeper, who can detect an AP style error before my index finger can even pound the period key; to the Spartana staff, for vaguely inferring that the only pub suite entity with which I am smitten more than Joe Janizek is covering advisory survey stories; to my parents, who are most likely swiveling their heads in utter confusion at this point of the column. I love you.

And to publications adviser Rod Kuhn, whose eternal enigma will forever endure through the Homestead attendance line and Diet Coke vending machine options, for criticizing me, praising me, hoisting me on a pedestal and moments later chain-sawing through the frail legs underneath me, tolerating my facetious text-message replies when he urged me not to run certain stories, and stabbing me and hugging me all at the same time.

It is currently 9:25 p.m. on Sunday night, and my iTunes library is cycling through Drake's feverishly hyped "Thank Me Later," which won't be officially released until next Tuesday and I did not digitally obtain prior to that date. Anyway, there's this gorgeously accurate bar on his collaboration with Jay-Z, "Light Up," to which I have also not lent my ears since June 15 is still nine days removed: "They always tell me nobody's working as hard as you, and even though I laugh it off, man, it's probably true." Now, excuse me, I have a phone call with Michael Hunt.

'Still thuggin" after four years

Well, I wasn't planning on writing a senior column, but apparently they "allotted space for it," so here I am wondering what to write for the next 270 words. I guess I should be honored they're letting me, a lowly copy editor with a less than stellar regard for deadlines, give my two cents for the last issue of the Spartana of which I'll ever be a part. It's right about now that I should probably start getting sentimental about all of the great teachers I had and all the friends I made here, and how much I'm going to miss everyone and how we all need to stay in touch, etc. However, I'm going to IU, so I'll probably see at least half of you there anyway, right? Give it up for in-state tuition!

I'm also more than likely putting more thought than I need to into this column, as the majority of these papers will most likely end up on the floor of the commons at 2:40. Even so, the experience I've had as a part of this staff has surprisingly summed up the time I've spent in high school pretty well. Sometimes things get messily thrown together at the last minute, and it doesn't always go as you planned, but in the end, it all turns out well. I've enjoyed my time at Homestead, but, in the words of the immortal Tupac Shakur, "I'd love to go back to when we played as kids, but things change, and that's the way it is." Also, "Mama, I'm still thuggin'." Good luck to the class of 2010 as you sarch for your place in life, and picture me rollin'. – *Andy Franklin*

SPARTANA STATS

Fourteen eight-page issues produced, four font families utilized, one iMac accidentally shattered and infinite flash drives used.

Playing and writing sports

Playing sports has been a major part of my extracurricular life, and reading about sports has been a major part of my before-school life. Ever since first grade, "reading" the sports section of the Journal Gazette has been part of the morning routine. It quickly progressed to reading the weekly Sports Illustrated, The Sporting News, and the USA Today sports section in addition to the local paper.

When I signed up for journalism in middle school, I had no idea how it would affect my life. Middle school journalism put the thought into my head that I could write like sport writer greats Rick Reilly and Tom Verducci, but when I entered Mr. Kuhn's domain, it quickly became apparent that there was much to improve. Writing for the Spartana for the last three years has taught me more about the real world than how to write a great senior column or an article on the Puma's soccer team. Meeting deadlines keeps stress out of your life, whether it is for a despicable boss whom you have named "Fat Tim" or for your spouse who needs her car fixed. I learned what many business people fail to learn until it is too late: missing important deadlines creates unwanted enemies.

Throughout my three years on staff of the Spartana, I have encountered many students at Homestead who do not take a meaningful interest in actually reading about what occurs outside of their personal bubble at this school and around the community. I urge the students who have glanced over my articles in the sports section over the last three years to preserve your interest in reading about athletics, both of the professional and scholastic varieties. As the media continues to write more about the world's problems and people's failures, continue to take former Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren's advice with which I have agreed since first grade: "The Sports pages records people's accomplishments. The front page has nothing but man's failures." – *Andrew Weiss*

'As we go on, we remember...'

And as we go on, we remember, all the times we, had together. Something something, something something, we will still be, friends forever."

Someone, circa 1998, I think, sang these words to me once. Cheetah Girls? Destiny's Child, maybe? Wait, I think it was that one lesbian pop duo with that music video of the two of them making out through a chain fence in the rain... Anyway, this song has never meant more to any of us until now. And as I sit here, slouching in my essay-writing cushion of the living room couch with a Pawn Stars marathon playing in the background, I realize that it will be the last time I do so. While the majority of my Spartana career has been spent either playing The Floor is Lava in the pub room or ping pong in Chief Svitek's basement while we're waiting for the pizza man to come, much of the time I have spent on this very couch, too, has indeed been devoted to my beloved Spartana, as it is right now. So let's make it last.

This new paragraph is a result of the lapse between the last word in the preceding paragraph and the time it took me to eat a bowl of Rocky Road ice cream, a true representation of the working habits of a Spartana editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed my publications career, throughout which I have become the unofficial go-to guy for anything sarcastic, unimportant, inappropriate or, when you think about, probably shouldn't have been in the paper in the first place. But, to be honest, I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

I appreciate all of you avid supporters out there, and I equally appreciate all of you who just as avidly wadded up your newspapers, chanted "Kobe!" and didn't care whether or not you made it to the trash can. Because without you, neither Tim the Janitor nor Little Debbie would have had any fun on Friday afternoons. So stay classy, Homestead. And thanks for reading. – *Derek Luttrell*

Opportunity lies in future

Thought-provoking classics are being surpassed by trashy vampire novels on college campuses while we trash the planet, and while, as many have forgotten, America is still fighting a war, Arizona has legalized racial profiling, Texas has severely edited and shredded history, Indiana's economy and education are flailing, genocide is still underway in the Sudan and Souder's a scuz.

As opinion editor for this school year, I've overseen coverage of sundry and sordid topics. Frankly, the future is dim, with human avarice and hubris as causes. Contrary to popular belief, neither Earth's resources nor the potential for economic growth are unlimited. On a smaller scale, we have seen many educational programs cut and teachers laid off, largely due to State Superintendent Tony Bennett's decision not to seek Race to the Top funds, which could have provided up to $250 million from the federal government, while also backing away funding for public schools by $297 million.

Pessimism aside, change is our one constant, whether for good or bad. It isn't often that the opinion page features positive reviews of positive news, but we've seen some. Same-sex marriage is becoming more accepted, and technological innovations in all areas are constant. We see that health care reform, once the lies are peeled away, allows kids to stay on their parents' health care until they're 26 and to not be denied coverage due to preexisting conditions.

Most seniors will pursue college in the fall. Others will pursue the military, trade school, jobs or public service (or crime, or freeloading, or prostitution or other gainful employment). You'll have the chance to be the youthful force for change, as so many generations before you, but most of you won't. Political interest isn't high on college campuses anymore, but pick up a newspaper once in a while. Stay informed. Vote. After all, this is the planet, or what's left of it, that you'll hand down to your grandchildren. – *Celia Grundman*

Namely wisdom

My freshman year, I lived for journalism. I wanted to learn everything there was about photography from the senior photographer, Zach Hetrick, as well as anything the executive editor, Larry Buchanan, had to tell me. Both of them taught me incredible amounts of things ranging from how to shoot a camera manually to how to be a person of good character. I laugh now as I think of how I just waited on their every word. Whenever either of them would speak, I would listen intently because I wanted to know everything they knew.

I remember specifically one talk I had with Larry that has truly stuck with me throughout all four years at Homestead. We were just walking down the hall and he gave me some advice. It wasn't related to journalism, it was just regarding life in high school. Larry told me how he always made it a priority to know everyone by name. He said it didn't matter whether it was the custodian, the nurse or another student, he would always say hi and know them by name. Now that I am in the same shoes as he was when he told me that advice, I know exactly why he said it.

There's no reason to go through six and a half hours of school, five days a week, and not be friendly to everyone you meet. Why not make the most of your days and try to get to know as many people as you can? Teachers don't want to go through day after day with unfriendly students, and I'm sure your days would be much nicer if you just said hi and got to know not only your teachers, but also the custodians, secretaries, librarians and lunch ladies. Just try it. Say hi to Debbie next time you see her pushing around the oversized bin of trash while students launch projectile balls of garbage in her direction. Say hi to Mrs. McAtee the next time you get your lunch in the welfare line or Mrs. Kovach the next time you go to turn in your three-months-overdue book. It feels good to be friendly, and it will definitely make your next few years at Homestead good ones.

Take care, Homestead. It's been a great four years. – *Suzie Reecer*

▸▸SURVEY RESULTS CONTINUED FROM 1A

The survey also asked students how often they would like to meet next year, a variable currently being discussed by faculty. Out of four possible choices, a majority of students said that they would like to meet in advisory groups as or less frequently than they currently do.

"It think that's a bad sign for the entire program," Kitch said.

Even though the consensus among students and advisers again indicates a negative opinion of advisory, administrators have maintained their positive outlook towards the program.

"The results support our main goal of forming a connection between teachers and students," Jennifer Bay, advisory design committee chair, said.

Students and advisers, however, do not seem to feel the same connection, and less than 40 percent of students agreed that they were connected to their advisor. Similarly, only one third of advisors agreed or strongly agreed that they had a connection with their students.

One area of the survey that did support the goals for advisory was a question involving "care," and almost 70 percent of students agreed or strongly agreed that their advisor cared about them.

"Overall, this is baseline data that will be used to make changes to advisory in the future," Bay said.

While the student and administrative opinions on advisory are clearly different, both groups can agree that advisory is something that will probably be around to stay.

"Even if we don't like advisory, I really don't see the school getting rid of it any time soon," Kitch said.

▸▸SENIORS CONTINUED FROM 1A

than two or three classes, so two classes isn't bad at all."

As a day at school filled with friends and fun, Senior Activities Day was a hit.

"I [was] so excited for Senior Activities Day, I [was] excited about everything: the breakfast, variety show and activities," Jaya Sharma (12) said. "It does suck that we [did] not get to have a half day this year, but I don't really think we [accomplished] much in class, so it [was] almost like a day off."

In addition to various games and activities, the day included breakfast in the cafeteria and the senior variety show. After eating lunch in the auxiliary gym around noon, seniors were required return to classes during sixth and seventh period unless they had a parent excuse.

Part of the success of Senior Activities Day is credited to Student Government, who organized the day, planned the activities and secured the events that occurred.

"All of the seniors in Student Government [played] a part in planning Senior Activities Day among other senior class activities," Quinn Brenneke (12), Student Government president, said. The seniors in Student Government are Brenneke, Joey DeRosa (12), Ashley Meruani (12), Carolyn Mutton (12), Suzie Reecer (12) and CJ Steele (12).

In past years, the senior class has tried to purchase something for the school every year, whether it is a picture, a mural or something else of the sort. However, no senior gifts have been contributed in the past few years. This year, the class plans to purchase a senior gift.

▸▸PARKING PENDING CONTINUED FROM 1A

ing the parking situation easier. But nothing is for sure yet."

"Administrators have met with a group of students that had a proposal to offer...however, it now appears that we won't be finalized until sometime this summer," Principal Rick Smith said.

With a full two months to contemplate the potential changes to the lot, the administration hopefully will keep the senior lot and be able to make minor tweaks while still satisfying the seniors.

▸▸ATTENDANCE CONTINUED FROM 1A

much. However, I wish I could have gone to Cedar Point on Friday.

Spartana: Do you plan on continuing having perfect attendance in college?

Boeckmann: I imagine I will. You don't go 13 years and then decide to start skipping class.

Spartana: What are your future plans?

Boeckmann: I'm attending IU in the fall, and I am either going to major in business or law.

▸▸SENIOR PRANK CONTINUED FROM 1A

given," Reecer said.

While the fate of this year's prank is still unclear, last year's prank was benign enough to avoid any serious consequence.

"We got 500 plastic flamingos and set them up all over the school lawn," Hayden O'Shaughnessy ('09) said.

O'Shaughnessy took charge of the senior prank last year, helping it to operate successfully.

"Our goal was not to get arrested because of a prank," O'Shaughnessy said.

Administrators not only accepted the prank after it occurred but also were informed of the prank before it took place, according to O'Shaughnessy. She said Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay was aware of the scheme.

While some pranks like the food fight have been strictly punished, others have been enjoyed by students and administrators alike.

"In the past, I think the best prank was the one... when they did the bouncy balls. It was great because it was just harmless fun," Reecer said.

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OPINION

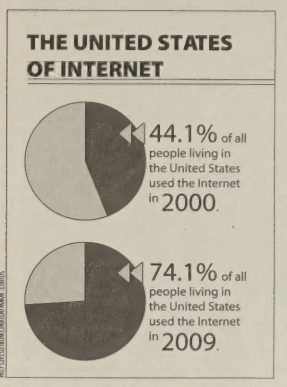
the GLIMPSE

PHOTO: WWW.UNITEDFORAMERICA.COM

Recently winning the 2010 Kentucky Republican Senatorial primary, Rand Paul, son of Ron Paul and ophthalmologist turned politician, has taken a stance on private property and civil rights. Paul has stated that he agrees with nine of the ten titles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and would have voted for the Act in its initial form, but disagrees with the preservation of civil rights when it comes to private businesses that provide public services or accommodations.

[OPINION@THESPARTANA.NET]

Tiered Internet would bring disastrous consequences


THE UNITED STATES OF INTERNET
44.1% of all people living in the United States used the Internet in 2000.
74.1% of all people living in the United States used the Internet in 2009.

INFOGRAPHIC BY MEGAN MANN

By Kirsten Overdahl
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Freedom of speech is one of the most highly prized protected rights in this country – it is the means by which Americans may exercise many of their other Constitutional rights. Much of free speech today is exercised through the Internet, where the web makes a world of information available and where anyone may place information. Shortly, in an upcoming Congressional bill, and the latest installment of an ongoing debate since 2006, opponents of network neutrality will use their fear of government regulation to exaggerate net neutrality's purpose and work against a system that would in fact protect the rights they fear will be taken away.

Network neutrality, commonly referred to as net neutrality, upholds the essence of the First Amendment by arguing for broadband providers such as Verizon, Comcast, and AT&T to be unbiased in the information that they send over their networks and to operate under implemented regulations. Net neutrality supports the idea that no information should be prioritized over other information, and in doing so, advocates for no tolerance of Internet discrimination.

Opponents of net neutrality, who pin the concept as government regulation, fear that net neutrality will mutate the Internet out of its present state of all-access free information. Network neutrality, however, is distinctly different from government regulation. Company regulations appear to be the only way to prevent already-powerful companies from damaging free access. Although opponents fear that regulations for companies would impede the freedom associated with the Internet, regulations would uphold the status quo of the Internet as a network for free speech.

In an attempt to table possible net neutrality regulations, opponents propose a tiered Internet system in which all Internet proceedings would be controlled by the producers and consumers of the information itself, not by the intermediary network provider. This proposition is valid only until the alarming realities of a tiered Internet are highlighted.

Tiered Internet would require content providers to pay a fee depending on the quality of service that they wish their information to receive, and the cost would then bounce back to the consumer. Internet users, who now currently pay a flat rate for their Internet service, would have to choose how much money they would be willing to spend for the quality of their information. The less expensive services would receive information from a lower tier, and if tiered Internet were to be implemented without any net neutrality in place, there would be very little, if any, reason for telecommunications companies not to degrade the lower tier services.

Proponents of tiered Internet believe that the structure is a natural step in the free market system, a way by which competition increases and services flourish. If anything, however, creating a tiered Internet system will hurt the market by minimizing competition and instead upholding a new form of monopoly. Consumer prices, which under current circumstances would normally decrease when faced with competition between network providers, will remain high due to reduced competition. Internet users would consequently have to pay multiple times for the same service, and the consumers, not the broadband companies, would feel the extra cost.

Net neutrality must be upheld and distinguished from government regulation efforts. If broadband companies have the power to determine what consumers can and can't see through tiered Internet systems, the quality of the information at consumers' fingertips will inevitably be determined by their wallets, not by their Constitutional rights.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 threatened by Rand Paul's recent senatorial success

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Contrary to the beliefs of many, Rand Paul, Kentucky's Senate candidate for the Republican Party, is not racist himself; however, we should be concerned about the possible consequences of his highly criticized political ideals, specifically, his stance on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Despite the fact that this piece of legislation was a critical step in providing minorities with equal protection under the First Amendment, Paul disagrees with one part of the act – Title II, which makes discrimination by private businesses illegal. Like several other political views, it makes sense in theory: just as a person has his First Amendment rights, a private business not funded by the government, Paul believes, should have those rights as well. The view sounds nearly logical, but when applied to the real world, it is anything but that.

58.8

was the percent of the vote with which Rand Paul won the 2010 Kentucky Republican Senatorial primary.

Just as a person has the right to refrain from speaking to someone of another race, it would almost make sense for a business to have the right to choose what types of people with whom it involves itself. Those who believe in this idea must not have considered the consequences of actually give this right to businesses. While racist or discriminatory business owners would have the right to express their extreme views, the effect on victims of the discrimination would be unbelievable, and for many, unbearable. Without the ability to fight for their right to work at private businesses, minorities would see great rises in unemployment rates, affecting the communities they live in as well.

In addition to a worsening of America's already painful economic crisis, the diversity among individual businesses and communities would weaken, reintroducing the U.S. to social hardships that were overcome years ago. Rather than pointing out what he believes is a weakness in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Paul should be praising it and its success in preventing unfair discrimination, especially in private businesses. After all, why would any candidate wish to "fix" an effective and popular piece of legislation, enacted nearly fifty years ago? Luckily, Paul says he "will not support any efforts to repeal the Civil Rights Act of 1964." Of course, the media has blown Paul's previous statement out of proportion, causing widespread belief that he is a hateful racist trying to bring back the days of segregation and Jim Crow Laws. But in reality, Paul is a typical politician, who perhaps needs to think before he speaks on major television programs.

Getting his AFFAIRS in order

Souder's resignation prompts unwanted, costly election

By Celia Grundman
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I once held a small measure of respect for Mark Souder. He may have been a buffoon, but he was a well-intentioned and moral buffoon – or so I believed. This was the man, now hypocrite of hypocrites, who touted the Bible as the "inerrant, perfect, revealed Word of God and [is] our number-one guidebook." After his affair with a staffer was revealed, he promptly resigned, stating that "I am resigning rather than to put my family through that painful, drawn-out process."

He didn't quit for his family, who he claimed would be hurt by the "poisonous environment" of Washington. He quit to avoid an investigation by the House Ethics Committee, and in doing so presented Indiana's third District with a contemptible dilemma. Do we have a special election as soon as possible, at extravagant cost to the taxpayers, or go without representation for 165 days?

Democratic candidate Tom Hayhurst called for a special election posthaste, as expected – if he were to win (the odds of which are higher when the opponent has had barely any time to campaign), the Democratic Congressional Committee would have showered him with funds in an attempt to keep the seat. And so, he stressed disenfranchisement.

> "I once held a small measure of respect for Mark Souder. He may have been a buffoon, but he was a well-intentioned and moral buffoon — or so I believed."
>
> **CELIA GRUNDMAN**
> *Opinion Editor*

Wise Republicans, conversely, want to distance Souder's disgrace from their party until it is a distant memory in the minds of voters – therefore, they wish for the special election to be stalled for as long as possible. And so, Governor Mitch Daniels stresses the severe cost of the election – which, political motivations aside, is a highly valid reason.

In the end, Daniels made the sensible choice and scheduled the special election for the same day as the upcoming general election on November 2. In doing so, he saved the 3rd District's counties from an estimated $540,000 in costs, as calculated by the Journal Gazette. It was the most pragmatic solution possible, given the grim state of the economy.

Hayhurst called for Souder to pay for the costs, rather unrealistically, which was likely his intention – it brings attention to the predicament Souder has placed us in. Around 750,000 Hoosiers will be temporarily disenfranchised: but as Daniels said, "The grounds for this decision are: the cost to taxpayers, the convenience of the voting public, and the involvement of the largest possible number of citizens in the selection of a new congressman. It seems to me that these interests outweigh any gains from having a member of Congress present for what would amount to no more than 20 voting days."

15

is the number of candidates looking to replace Mark Souder as the U.S. representative of Indiana's 3rd district.

Currently, there are 15 candidates vying to be the Republican nominee, who will be chosen by a caucus on June 12. Bob Thomas, news anchor Ryan Elijah, Fort Wayne City Councilwoman Liz Brown, state Sen. Marlin Stutzman, and state Rep. Randy Borror are among the hungry mob.

My bet's on Stutzman. The best choice for the Republican Party, he's had a fair amount of publicity from his recent statewide Senate campaign, and unlike Bob Thomas he's actually from around here. The odds are in his favor.

Still, once nominated he'll have to run against Dr. Tom Hayhurst – who is rapidly becoming a formidable opponent – in the general election. Stutzman's tea party dogma, with any luck, will be surpassed by Hayhurst's dedication to bringing jobs to northeast Indiana, especially via environmentally friendly avenues such as "beef[ed] up" rail transportation and green technology.

Souder's betrayal was deplorable, his resignation devastating. Daniels solved it the best he could – now, it's time to move on.

PHOTO BY CLAIRE HEUER

Separation of church and state lost on Greenwood High School's graduation ceremony

The Ed Board
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Beth Huber
Derek Luttrell
Suzie Reecer

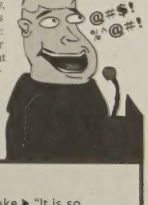
Virtually all high schools – Homestead included – screen students' graduation speeches for grammar, length, and content. One central Indiana high school, however, will leave everything to the students this year, ostensibly in support of free speech; in reality, Greenwood High School has gone to ludicrous lengths to skirt the separation of church and state.

Eric Workman, valedictorian and commencement speaker for Greenwood, had filed a lawsuit against the school for planning a graduation prayer which was voted for by the students (a longstanding tradition), and Judge Sarah Evans Barker ruled in his favor. It was shortly thereafter that the school decided not to screen speeches, regardless of any profanities or politics or – one can infer – religious sentiments. While refusing to give a reason for the change, Superintendent David Edds insists that "it's the First Amendment, freedom of speech." And yet, as the lawsuit noted, the school "subjected religious practice to a majority vote." In doing so, the school oppresses the free speech and views of the minority.

If a student reads a prayer, this sneaky school won't be held liable, despite numerous court cases and a 2002 Supreme Court ruling outlawing graduation prayers. A Greenwood pastor, Rev. Shan Rutherford, inanely claims that Workman was "trying to go with minority rule. To me, that's wrong in a democracy, one that was founded on Christian principles." Actually, it's not minority rule if it's not meant to occur in the first place – which Rutherford would know if he'd heard of the First Amendment and the Establishment Clause.

Oddly enough, Greenwood High School's change does have some good points. We believe schools should screen for grammar and length, but not so much for content as long as it does not encourage discrimination, violence, and the like. Profanities and political espousals, while perhaps not appropriate in most situations, should be allowed. Unlike state-sponsored prayer, it's legal. University of Arizona associate professor Sandra Soto recently delivered one such politically charged graduation speech against the new immigration laws – and in this case, it was highly appropriate. That's real free speech, not selective religious views forced on an unwilling minority.

Greenwood High, weaseling through a loophole to avoid responsibility, not so noble. Still, it's not a perfect loophole: they may get their graduation prayer, but valedictorian Workman will likely have something to say about it – after all, they can't screen him.



{THE BOTTOM LINE} *Greenwood High's push of religion on the minority is highly inappropriate.*

the facebook crawl

Derek Luttrell

Executive editor and resident social networking aficionado Derek Luttrell captures the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat every Sunday night.

Question: "If you could summarize the last four years with a Lady Gaga lyric, which one would it be?"

Albert Jennings ▶ "Eyes are stickin' like honey on bees, look at that, look at how they lookin' at me. . . (is that conceited?)"

Brian Landrigan ▶ "Sa-sa-sa-sarch face, sa-sa-sa-sa-sarch face."

Sonya Joseph ▶ "This one goes out to you, Derek — 'Stop callin', stop callin'."

Arpita Bhardwaj ▶ "I love this record, baby, but I can't see straight anymore."

Justice Martin ▶ "'Poker Face,' because the whole time I was trying to trick the teachers into thinking I was doing something every day in high school."

Demri Braun ▶ "I don't know what mine is. I do know Repka's, though — 'Alejandra, Alejannndra.' Wait, is that how the song goes?"

Chris Blake ▶ "It is so strange the way things turn."

Allie Bley ▶ "Alejandro, Alejandro... Ah. Spring Break '09."

Jenna Banas ▶ "Just dance. Gonna be okay. Da da doo doo. Just dance."

CARTOON BY CLAIRE HEUER

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

The Windsong Film Festival is yet another example of a local event where the majority of the Southwest community is unaware. Recently taking place for the eleventh consecutive year at IPFW, familiar names were mentioned and given prestigious honors. A film team from advanced film and video class were among a select group of Homestead students that were honored with awards, but were the only group that left with more than one award.

Literature gives words of English language hope, confidence for future

Someone once told me that I don't read books; I read literature. I've been called a book snob, a book hipster, a book racist. However, it doesn't bother me in the least – after all, there needs to be someone willing to stand up for good literature when desolate modern standards seek to tarnish it.

Perhaps this is why Pablo Neruda gives me such hope for the future of literature. His poems are tender, sensuous and passionate. His fervent love of language positively seeps through the pages of his collections. Neruda's words are so lush that I am helplessly drawn back to his poetry, ruminating endlessly over the richness of his verses. The fact that Neruda became one of the most widely celebrated poets of his generation imbues me with hope, with a confidence that writers of artistic uprightness, even in an era of "whodunits," can achieve the recognition they so deserve.

Writers such as Michael Chabon, Nicole Krauss, Jonathan Safran Foer and Michael Ondaatje are bending over backwards to usher literary fiction into the twenty-first century, and I think they've done so with exceptional elegance and utmost grace. Authors of stylistic literature bare their souls in their breathtaking grasp of the English language, and it shows. Writing with integrity and complexity lends heart to a work of literature; it does not cloud the meaning, but rather illuminates it in beautiful and immeasurable ways. As Ondaatje once said, words "give clarity, bring reason, create shape."

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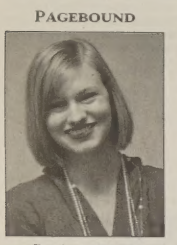

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Life Editor • life@thespartana.net

We need not all be economical of words. We need not all be action writers. Neruda once stated: "You can say anything you want, but it's the words that sing." My life has always been one long, adoring love affair with the English language and its exquisitely idiosyncratic trappings; words enrapture me, beguile me, sing to me, fairly leap off the page at me. I was guilty of reading the dictionary as a child, and I still do it. Something as simple as writing ten pages can, for me, fill a month; I take time to string the right words in the right order with the right emotional connotation. It's a careful, painstaking, conscientious art, and it may be the long way around, but I thoroughly love, venerate and appreciate the craftsmanship of everything I read and write. I don't know many who can say the same thing.

Reading and writing are, in my opinion, momentous acts of faith and optimism. Reading requires faith in the author, a steadfast belief that the work will ultimately resolve itself. Writing requires tremendous optimism, a conviction that what one is doing is worthwhile. And, while students may scoff now, it is so, so very worth it.

No one will be waxing poetic about Janet Evanovich in fifty years. I hope they'll be waxing poetic about writers with integrity, maybe even me. Reading and writing cerebral literature certainly isn't easy, but reading shouldn't be easy – it should be rewarding. Rewarding works are the ones the world is still reading, that have endured. Works of art always endure.

PHOTO BY CARRIE CUMMINSKEY | PHOTO WWW.BLOGSPOT.COM

Teachers look forward to busy summer months full of exciting plans

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

It won't just be students counting down those last seconds before the clock strikes 2:35 on June 11. Teachers have exciting summer plans of their own.

Art teacher Sarah Jones is starting her summer early. She leaves today to accompany Michael Buchanan (12) to New York City, where he'll be receiving an award.

"Michael won the National Silver Medal," Jones said. "So I get the National Scholastic Art Teacher Award for being his teacher."

Buchanan won two National Silver Medals, one for his portrait of English teacher Scott Hill and one for his entire portfolio.

"I'm not surprised that Michael won because he's amazingly talented. I'm just surprised that someone from Homestead won since it's been 15 to 20 years since that has happened," Jones said.

Besides attending the award ceremony at Carnegie Hall, Jones will be seeking out every art activity possible.

"I'll be revitalizing my creative flow and bringing back new inspiration for my students," Jones said.

Jones plans to see the rock musical "Rock of Ages" on Broadway and attend seminars available for National Gold and Silver Medal winners and their teachers.

"Different artists open up their studios for studies and lectures," Jones, who will be learning how to prepare National Award-winning portfolios, said.

Though her New York trip will only last for four days, Jones has a busy summer to keep her active.

"I'm going to facilitate a youth art program that specifically targets free and reduced-lunch students," Jones said. "This program is for students who wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise."

Jones isn't the only teacher spending her summer finding ways to help students.

Drama teacher Victoria "Maloodles" Malooley is participating in the National Writing Project.

"I originally applied for a grant to visit Europe, but I didn't get it," Malooley said. "But I was really lucky to receive this other grant from the National Writing Project."

The National Writing Project helps teachers and educators become better writers so they can teach their newfound skills to their students.

"I'm taking grad courses through the Apple Seed Writing project. It's Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 4:00, just like a full-time job," Malooley said.

She'll learn new techniques and practice her writing for her English 12 class.

"It's a great way for me to work on my own writing," Malooley said. "It's hard to get my students to enjoy writing."

However, the National Writing Project won't be taking up Malooley's whole summer. She's also going to Washington D.C. on vacation.

"With the rest of my summer, I'm going to lock myself in a room and watch as many plays as possible so I can decide what next year's play will be," Malooley said.

Orchestra teacher Brad Wadkins will be enjoying shows as well. He'll be spending part of his summer in the dry heat of Las Vegas, Nevada.

"A friend and I first went to Las Vegas fourteen years ago," Wadkins said. "It's been our annual Father's Day trip since then."

Though this trip requires him to miss Father's Day festivities with his two children, Wadkins insists that they're "cool with it."

"When in Las Vegas, I like to game and eat at the great restaurants there," he said.

Additionally, Wadkins goes to see shows, such as Cirque de Soleil, of which he's seen five.

"The best thing about Las Vegas is that it's not Fort Wayne," Wadkins said. "But I wouldn't take my kids until they turn 21. It's not a family destination."

Wadkins will have plenty of time to spend with his kids for the rest of the summer before band camp begins.

"The best part about summer is that I get a lot of time with my family, and I get to relax."

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Top: Victoria Malooley helps Justin Norris (11) with a project in class. Malooley plans on taking classes this summer to help bring new ideas to her English class. Above: Sarah Jones and Michael Buchanan (12) will be traveling to New York City where Buchanan will receive an award for his art.

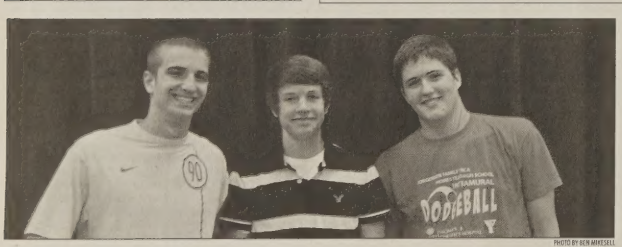

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Film receives unexpected award

Students surprised by recognition at local film festival

BY ALEX BARNARD
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

It is not very often that one is entered in a competition by someone else and then surprisingly wins. Despite the probability of such an event, that is precisely what happened to Ryan Cordes (12), David Wirtner (12) and Andrew Yde (11), who won first place at the Windsong Film Festival in the category of comedy with their silent film and second place for their claymation movie.

"I found out the day before the competition that the talented Mrs. Ricker had entered our films," Wirtner said.

The Windsong Film Festival is held annually at IPFW. Michael Floyd, founder of Windsong Pictures, began the festival to offer short films to the public at no cost, and the event has now expanded to include international films. Some films entered in the festival have received recognition as great as an Academy Award. This year, there were two festivals: student and independent films could be entered in the categories of drama, comedy, documentary, frontier, animation, music video or news format.

The silent film made by Cordes, Wirtner and Yde centers around basketball and features all three in the film. Despite opposition from Cordes to the idea, Wirtner and Yde decided to use basketball, which in turn led to an award-winning silent film.

"Yde thought it would be funny to make a movie in which he would be better than David and I at basketball. So we built a story off of that," Cordes explained.

Until enrolling in Mrs. Ricker's Film and Video class, none of the group members had much past experience with filmmaking. After students take Beginning Film and Video, they have the opportunity to enroll in Advanced Film and Video, which gives them the chance to make more complex and difficult films.

"The silent film was definitely a much more enjoyable experience," Yde said. "The claymation was tedious and slow-going for the most part."

Claymation is one of the more long term and involving projects in the class and takes upwards of nine weeks to complete. Students make small clay figures and design sets; they then make a film using stop-motion animation techniques. Despite the long process, the final product shows the hard work put in, especially for this group in particular, as its members were awarded for the grueling effort.

"The claymation probably took in excess of fifteen hours to design the set, shoot hundreds if not thousands of separate frames and add in sound effects," Yde explained.

The Cordes, Wirtner and Yde trio was not the only group to win an award. A total of seven groups from Homestead won awards at the 11th annual festival, but Cordes, Wirtner and Yde were members of the only group to pick up two awards.

The Windsong Film Festival is an opportunity for the hard work of students to be showcased and awarded. Partaking in the Film and Video class gives students the opportunity to participate in the international competition.

"Film and Video is a great class to take and is taught by one of our favorite teachers," Wirtner said.

From left to right: David Wirtner (12), Andrew Yde (11) and Ryan Cordes (12) were entered into the annual Windsong Film Festival by Lisa Ricker, film and video teacher. The boys took first place for their silent film in the comedy category and second place for their claymation film.

Local choir represents U.S. overseas in games

Voices of Unity bound to China

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

Monumental opportunities offered by extracurricular activities are often momentous events, but especially momentous are those that take the student out of Indiana, much less out of the country. The Voices of Unity Youth Choir has been chosen to represent the United States in Shaoxing, China, for the sixth World Choir Games, which are the Olympics of the choral field. The choir has worked extremely hard to get where they are today and will keep working to be better.

"This is a token to reward the children for their hard work and effort. This is an extremely significant event, to be participating at this very high level of competition. Going to the World Choir Games will be an exciting journey," Marshall White, choir director, said.

> "We have spent years training for this. We wanted to achieve excellence and go international."
>
> **MORAA BAHIZI (11)**
> *Voices of Unity Youth Choir Member*

The members of the choir have worked hard to achieve this once in a lifetime opportunity; right now, the choir is practicing for three hours every Saturday and Sunday in order to work around the school schedules of the students involved. On June 8, the choir will begin meeting Monday through Thursday for five weeks to practice their routine. The group will spend their summer working hard on becoming the best, and when they leave for China in July, they will attempt to prove that their grueling work has paid off.

"This is a really important event for me. This choir was started in 2000. We have performed regionally before, but not internationally. Our music has been based off of a variety of artists. The hard work we have put into the choir has paid off," Aaryn Eady (11), member of the choir, said.

Not only is the choir practicing for the World Choir Games, but members are also learning about the Chinese culture. The Voices of Unity Youth Choir will be in China from July 15-26.

"We have had three sessions to learn some of the culture, the language and what to expect in China. This is going to be a life-changing event and will open a door to new possibilities," Moraa Bahizi (11), member of the choir, said.

The World Choir Games began in Linz, Australia in 2000 and has occurred every other year since. Ninety countries take part in the Games, including the United States. The judges must choose from over four hundred choirs, awarding winners with one of three medals: gold, silver and bronze. The motto of the World Choir Games is "Singing together brings nations together." The Games are sponsored by INTERKULTER, which is dedicated to bringing the world together in song.

"We are empowering youth soulful choir groups. We have spent years training for this. We wanted to achieve excellence and go international. We finally did it!" Bahizi said.

The Unity Youth Choir is going to put in hard work over the summer to be the best they can be at the World Choir Games. Working over the summer can be boring and uninteresting, but getting the chance to go international, members of the choir consider it a worthwhile sacrifice.

"I have been singing with the Unity Youth Choir for five years. I am used to the hard practices, but this is beyond me," Eady said. "Our choir is trying to be the best and I'm prepared for that challenge."

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE

The boys' golf team pulled off a nearly impossible feat last Friday at the sectional championship. The team shot an even par, along with Jon Finley (11), and Tom Kocks (11) both shooting 31 on the front-nine. Multiple school records, both team and individual, were broken throughout the course of that night. After advancing past the sectional round, the team will need to win at regionals if they hope to continue their season.

[SPORTS@THESPARTANA.NET]

Homestead golfer shows talent and poise during high school golf season

Try to the name the person I'm thinking of. He's on the Homestead varsity golf team. After getting cut his freshman year, he came back and made the team for both his sophomore and junior seasons. He's part of the team that placed sixteenth at the state championship last season and part of the team that placed second in the NHC Conference and first in the Sectional Championship this season.

Still having trouble putting a name on the face? He shot the low-score on the team and fifth place overall at the Legends Golf Course for the Spring Invitational with a 76 earlier this season. For the first time in his high school career, he is NHC first-team all conference. And last Friday, he shot 66 and placed first overall in the Sectional Championship.

CUP OF JOE

In case you haven't figured out who it is by now, I'm talking about Tom Kocks (11). He's one of the most underrated Homestead athletes I know, and he is one of the hardest-working golfers you'll ever meet.

Coincidentally, the first time Tom ever played golf was with me a little over three years ago. We played the par-three course at Brookwood, which is the second shortest course in Fort Wayne with the shortest being the Putt-Putt course on Coliseum Road. When we were hitting into the greens, I was hitting nine-irons and wedges while Tom was hitting five-irons and five-woods. When we had finished the round, Tom told me he was going to try out for the golf team, and I couldn't believe it. I went through that following winter hearing stories from Tom about how he was taking lessons and traveling down south to play more rounds. To think that I went from being skeptical on whether or not he would make the team, to seeing him shoot scores in the low 70's, placing in multiple tournaments and now being a part of the first-team in the NHC Conference is almost unbelievable.

Here's what makes Tom different than nearly all Homestead athletes: He's one of the only 17-year-old athletes that I know who is surprisingly humble. Unlike most athletes I write about, this column wasn't written upon special request. He even thanked me for interviewing him. When I send out an interview, one of two things happens. Generally, I won't receive a response because most of the primadonna wonder kids at Homestead are too busy to respond to a simple five-question interview. Or, the response fully revolves around how well their personal season is going, with little mention of the team's entire performance. You'd be surprised to see how many athletes I've interviewed who don't even know their team's own record. When I asked Tom about playing the No. 3 spot on the team, Tom responded, "It's not really about the spot, and I don't mind playing No. 3 at all. I just like doing my job, and I hope that the whole team comes out on top." Somebody pinch me.

What Tom lacks in talent, he makes up for with his work ethic. I remember all of the countless times he would tell me that he had spent the previous night at the Bobick's driving range or buying bucket after bucket at The Golf Dome. Having talent is only temporary, but work ethic transcends beyond the high school golf team. Tom is lucky. He has both.

While Homestead has a poor reputation of the attitudes of our athletes, we're lucky to have guys like Tom who offset this one-sided scale. I'm lucky to have Tom as a friend, and even luckier to be able to write about all he's done. After I was finished interviewing him, he said, "Thanks man, I really appreciate all of this." I said, "Don't thank me, you deserve it."

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor • sports@thespartana.net

COMING SOON PAY TO PLAY

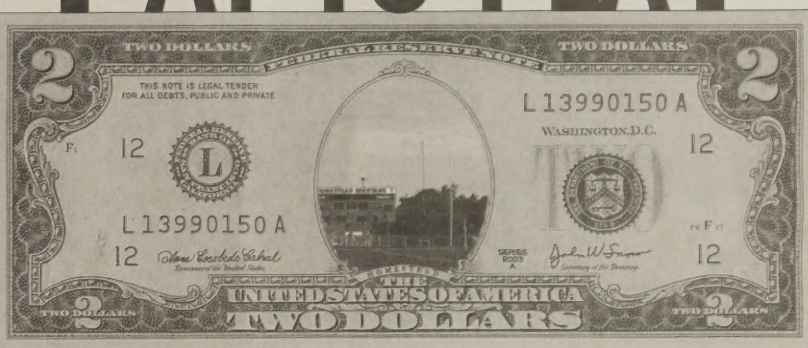
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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY REED LEVEN

Athletes may start dishing out for sports as early as 2011

BY MAX ISROFF
Business Manager • business@thespartana.net

As Southwest Allen County Schools dwindles to a new financial low each year, a new series of cuts will begin as early as next year. Part of the projected three-tier system to cut school costs includes a new system of "pay-to-play" sports, which appear to be inevitable for future Spartan athletes.

"Unless the state budget changes next year, it is almost inevitable that pay-to-play sports will be put into place following the next school year," Principal Rick Smith said. "Sadly, it is something we are unable to avoid. As much as we do not want to see it implemented, there is nothing we can do about it. It's either implement pay-to-play sports or begin to cut entire sports programs."

As of now, no system has been set up for the exact procedure for pay-to-play sports, it would be expected that athletes would be charged to cover around twenty percent of the costs of the program. In other words, programs such as football or baseball in which the costs are higher would require students more to attend games, and athletes would be required to pay a certain amount for each season. Another deciding factor on how much students would pay to play their respective sport includes the amount of students on the team. The more students, the more the costs can be split up, and vice versa.

Although Athletic Director Joe Updegrove does not believe that participation in sports programs would fall, he is quick to point out that the money from students who currently pay to play still does not cover his operating costs.

"In most programs where students pay to play, the money from the students paying to play does not cover equipment or maintenance costs. It only covers the coaches' salaries," Updegrove said. "This means that we would still rely on the booster club and ticket sales to cover these fields. One of my concerns is that if a family already paying a certain amount of money for their athlete to play in a sport would still be willing to become a sponsor of the booster club. If we lose sponsors for the booster club, then the pay-to-play sports program does not really solve many problems for our athletic department."

> "As much as we do not want to see it implemented, there is nothing we can do about it. It's either implement pay-to-play sports or begin to cut entire sports programs."
>
> **RICK SMITH**
> *Principal*

The Homestead Athletic Boosters club could not be reached for comment on this story, but in an article run earlier this year in the Spartana, reporters investigated exactly how much the booster club financially helps the athletic department. The booster club helps finance many areas of the department through fundraisers and parent membership which, if it declined, would noticeably affect Homestead athletics.

One student also brings up another issue with pay-to-play sports.

"I already pay a good amount to play club soccer and to travel with that team. If I would also have to pay to play for Homestead, I would have to consider not doing travel soccer, which is where I train to become better for the high school season," Frankie Zirrille (10) said. "It's kind of like a huge cycle where no matter what happens, I am still at a disadvantage."

The current sophomore class will be seniors when pay-to-play sports will be initiated if the budget does not change.

Parent and administrator Steve Lake also points out that students who play multiple sports would be affected. Parents who have multiple students would be put in a tough financial situation.

"As a parent, I have a student who plays in two sports, which means double the money. We would have to consider only letting him play one sport," Lake said.

> **20**
> The estimated percent that each team would have to cover for their season.

The worst part about the pay-to-play sports situation is the unknown. It is currently unknown exactly how much students will have to pay per sport. The question also rises of what the third tier could bring, such as higher transportation fees and equipment fees, if the pay-to-play plan is only tier two. Whatever the case, pay-to-play sports is likely coming soon, and only a miracle could prevent it.

Former Homestead student presents colors at Washington Nationals games

BY JACOB COOK
Writer • staff@thespartana.net

While most Homestead graduates follow their life's path to higher education and universities for academics or athletics, other students choose to dedicate themselves to the country's armed services. Of the four 2009 Homestead graduates last year who went to the military, Nick Jones ('09) was the only former student to move on to the Coast Guard. Graduating at the top of his class, Jones was selected for the prestigious Honor Guard, an elite unit that presents the Coast Guard's colors at important national events. His most notable duty, however, is the work he does with the Washington Nationals. Jones has presented the Coast Guard's flag at five home games for the Nationals this season, including Opening Day.

Opening Day at Nationals Park, the home stadium of the Washington Nationals, remains one of the busiest days of Jones' Honor Guard career. Jones presented the flag of the Coast Guard in what is known as a Joint Service operation, where one flag bearer from each branch of the military presents their respective flags. The particularly special part of that day for Jones was seeing President Obama throw the first pitch of the game.

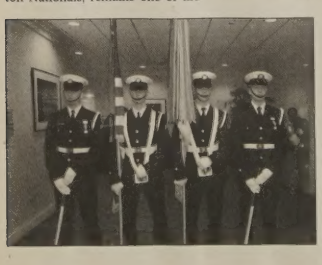
"There was security everywhere, as you can imagine," Jones said. "Having President Obama there added a ton of extra excitement to the job." Marching out from the visitor's tunnel, Jones and the other flag bearers stood directly behind home plate in front of the massive crowd that the game hosted.

After presenting the colors, every member of the Joint Service operation was offered box seats, the same seats offered to Obama. However, Jones' busy schedule left him traveling to New York immediately for a military funeral. Despite missing the opportunity to meet Obama, Jones has presented the Coast Guard flag at five other Nationals games and has taken advantage of his free box seats at every other game.

"Everything since opening day has been strictly Coast Guard, and we've actually been offered better stuff since then." Jones said.

As a former athlete himself, Jones especially favors the time he spends working at Nationals games. Because the Honor Guard has him occupied and kept under a tight chain of command, the time for recreation or any sport-related activity is minimal. His reconnection with the world of sports has brought new light to his military service.

"Staying at games gives us all a chance to unwind and catch up on all of our favorite sports that we're missing," Jones said. "While they aren't a regularly occurring thing, National's games are definitely the high point of my job."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Nick Jones (2010) joined the Coast Guard after graduating last year. Left: Jones meets with Coast Guard members before game.

Semi-state tournament finishes tennis team's postseason stretch

BY CONNOR O'HARA
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The tennis program at Homestead has always prided itself on its intimidating reputation. For both the girls' team and the boys' team, Homestead tennis has always been a program that has thrived even when the other school sports programs seem to fall behind. The 2010 season for the Homestead girls' tennis team was no different than past years.

Homestead currently leads the state in semi-state titles, including last year. The Spartans currently possess 15 state titles, and the records predict that they will continue to stay in the top spot. The number-16 Spartans finished up their season with a record of 16-2. The Spartans also went on to claim yet another regional and sectional title.

"Winning regionals and sectionals was definitely one of the highlights of the season. Nothing felt better," Macy Johnson (10) said.

Johnson is a part of a growing trend not just for the Homestead girls' tennis team but for many of the school's sports as well. More sports are starting to approach their seasons with strong underclassmen.

If this trend continues, the strength of the Spartan girls' tennis team will grow exponentially in the coming years.

With sophomores like Johnson and freshmen such as Allison Overlander (9) and Hanita Epstein (9), the Homestead tennis program will give other state tennis a run for their money. The beautiful thing about this situation is that with such young players already performing at senior level, the coaches have extra time to perfect these players into one of the strongest unified forces in the state.

"The upper classmen were so supportive and encouraging. At first I didn't really know what to expect but I couldn't have asked for better team mates." Overlander said.

"I love how all of our younger team members are what make this team great. It really makes us look forward to our coming season and helps us realize how much potential we really have," Johnson said.

For years, people have always thought of Homestead tennis as one of the school's crowning achievements. With over 30 consecutive sectional titles for the boys' and girls' teams, the teams will likely not surrender their untarnished reputation anytime soon.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The girls' tennis team is pictured receiving their Regional Championship title plaque. The season ended after the semi-state match.

FEATURE

the GLIMPSE

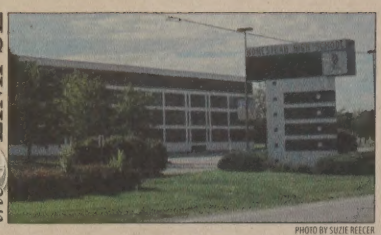

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Students have questions--The Spartana has answers. Reporters have set out to find out what remains unanswered from an eventful year. Staff writers have evaluated the effectiveness of a new dress code policy, the purpose of morning teacher meetings and the new ECA testing that replaced the previous ISTEP testing. While there's no way to know what will happen next year, this year's queries are certainly cleared up here.

{ FEATURE@THESPARTANA.NET }

Did the new dress code violations REALLY work?

Students and teachers have had difficulties with the dress code, but this year's change regarding low cut shirts has eliminated another fashion option.

The student handbook's updated dress code rule states that students should lay a palm on their chest so that the index finger is on the collarbone. It goes on to say, "If the shirt falls below [the student's] pinky, it is considered too low cut to wear to school."

Some do not see this updated rule as a drastic change.

"The rule has not really changed anything. If teachers and the administration do not enforce the dress code right away, then the dress code is not that effective," Toiyonna Arias, Spanish teacher, said.

"One time I got a dress code violation and the administration did not tell me I had gotten one until a month afterwards," Madiee Jones (10) said. "I could not remember what I had worn that day. The dress code could be effective if violations were given the day the person wears the clothes or the day after, not a month after," she said.

Teachers do not always enforce the dress code. Some teachers just tell students what they are wearing is to short and to not wear it again. Others will report the violation to the administration.

"The dress code is strict, but it is not really followed. Some students get violations, while others don't. Generally students with bigger features get more violations than those with smaller features," said Jones.

Some students are not given their violations shortly after their dress code violation.

"Follow through time on dress code violations is too long, so it is not as effective as it should be," said Arias. – *Lexi Yanez*

Where are teachers before 7:50 a.m.?

Frustration is evident in the halls some mornings as students pace around waiting for teachers to return from their abundant morning meetings.

Teachers attend committee, department and faculty meetings, and even though one day a week is reserved for helping students, it still can be difficult for staff to handle this rigorous schedule.

"When it's four mornings out of the week, it can be overwhelming," Jamie Smith, Academy English teacher, said.

All teachers attend faculty meetings, where administrators share information and procedures, items that, as Smith puts it, can be "easily dispersed" in one big meeting. Sometimes presentations are given by committees, groups of teachers who focus on certain aspects of the school, including from transitions from the Academy to the main building to how parts of the school function.

Teachers also participate in department meetings, which have subcommittees. Smith said that the English department has its subcommittees divided by what classes a teacher instructs. In addition, Academy teachers assemble for House meetings, where they discuss when tests will be given and how to help struggling students.

Despite the positive work committees do to help students, some teachers can be annoyed with their frequency.

"Most [teachers] are resigned that they're there and not going away," Smith said. She said that ultimately, the meetings help get work done.

"They're never unnecessary," she said.

– *Molly Zweig*

Why was Fine Arts Day cancelled?

Generally each springs students get a break from classes to appreciate performances by the dance team, band, color guard, and show choir. Unfortunately, Fine Arts Day was cancelled.

"It wasn't fair to the people in fine arts," Erik Bailey (10), Class Royale member, said.

Many reasons have been cited for why the event fell through.

"It came down to scheduling conflicts," Curtis Shaw, show choir director, said. He said that the administration tried to move the event back a week due to choir and band state contests. However, there was another issue during the slated week.

"The problem was advisory was that week, and it would have taken kids out of class twice in one week," Shaw said.

Students, especially those who would have performed, were upset about Fine Arts Day.

"We hardly get any recognition for the work," Rachel Mantica (12), Class Royale member, said. She said that with budget cuts fine arts generally are deemed as unnecessary and are the first to go.

"We should be able to show the school why we need fine arts," she said.

Bailey was also frustrated with a missed opportunity.

"We should be able to express ourselves in front of the school," he said, "that's what fine arts does."

Shaw said that despite frustration, Fine Arts Day isn't dead yet.

"There was a fluke with the schedule," he said, "it's definitely on for next year." – *Molly Zweig*

Solomon Lin (11)

Christian Robinson (9)

Who is Michael Hunt?

During the past month, many students with a Facebook account received a friend request from a young man by the name of Michael Hunt. After reading into his profile, it was made clear that he previously attended DeSales High School in Louisville, Ky., as well as that he would be attending Homestead next year as a senior. After some research, it was discovered that no "Michael Hunt" been registered to attend Homestad next year. This poses the question: Who really is this elusive Facebook personality?

In addition to the countless awkward and often seemingly unprovoked conversations initiated by Hunt via Facebook chat instant messaging, many believe that this profile serves as no more than an elaborate hoax.

Originally, the Spartana intended to analyze Facebook's involvement in helping Hunt make friends at Homestead, so an interview was scheduled. However, whoever managed to attend this meeting in no way resembled the pictures that appeared on his Facebook page. Likewise, the mystifying interviewee gave information about Michael's past life that did not correlate with the information online. Curiously enough, when asked what school he attended in Louisville, "Michael" gave the name of a school that, indeed, does not exist. When asked to show some form of identification, "Michael" conveniently had none and refused to be photographed.

Initial contacts at Canterbury High School attempted to pin the profile scheme on a sophomore named Daniel Bainbridge, who was later described as the "quietest kid ever" and an unlikely culprit by an anonymous source. Mariah Widmer, a junior at Canterbury, later claimed that Bainbridge "has nothing to do with Michael Hunt." Another source who requested anonymity in exchange for revealing information subsequently confirmed that the cyberspace mastermind behind the Hunt character was among a list of four potential names compiled by Spartana staff. Simultaneously, Widmer stated two students of which she was certain were the faux-profile creators. The two names also happened to be on the suspect list verified by the second anonymous source.

Canterbury seniors Kevin Wynder and Sam Hockley are Michael Hunt. As always, keep it classy, Cavaliers.

– *Rachel Shinn and Patrick Svitek*

Unanswered Questions

Each year students move through Homestead's halls, taking in information around them from classes, the news and other students. This school year, they've survived swine flu, the passage of health care and a massive oil spill. However, as classes tie up the loose ends of their curricula, many questions still remain from the year at Homestead.

Staff writers set out to answer this year's unanswered questions, ranging from the cancellation of Fine Arts Day, the identity of a new Facebook "friend" and the solution to a computer sickness. Students may have forgotten a time without drinks from the Darkroom or a world without ECA testing. While there's no crystal ball, knowing what happened before will help preview and predict what's to come.

How much does The Dark Room really make?

Students drag themselves to school everyday, some barely awake and some desperately in need of coffee. Beginning in December, these coffee-seekers had somewhere to go at school.

Allison Baer (11) started the Darkroom after getting the idea for a Homestead coffeehouse and hearing interest from other students.

"I always liked the idea of having a coffee house," she said. Baer submitted a business plan to Jennifer Bay in November, marketing the coffee house as a way to help decrease the yearbook Retrospect's debt. The small store, housed in a small food stand near the gym, made about $2000 this year.

Yearbook staffers and others that Baer recruits run the Darkroom. They order the Tazo tea from an online Starbucks retailer and get the coffee and flavorings from local Starbucks locations.

"I have a really good relationship with the people at Starbucks," Baer said.

While Arnold Palmers, doughnuts and other hot drinks are the top sellers, Baer hopes to expand to new items next year.

"I would love to do smoothies," she said, but also said that there would need to be more space to house all the supplies needed. Though this year was a big success, Baer has a vision for next year, too.

"I'd love for it to eventually be a full-blown coffee house." – *Molly Zweig*

What is ECA and what happened to ISTEP?

Anticipation for the end of the year is quickly muted as students realize that they must once again take standardized tests. In past years, ISTEP+ tests were administered in the fall and in the spring. However, this year, freshmen and sophomores are taking ECA or End-of-Course Assessment tests instead. Despite the change in name, the ECA tests are an updated version of the old ISTEP+ tests.

The change from ISTEP+ tests to ECA tests has been a statewide change affecting all classes after the class of 2012. However, only high schools are using the new ECA tests. Elementary schools and middle schools are continuing to use the old ISTEP+ tests.

According to the Indiana Department of Education, the goal of the new ECA tests is to ensure that students are to meet the goals set by Indiana's Core 40 program.

Differences between ECA tests and ISTEP+ tests include modified testing to put a greater focus on what had been taught earlier in the school year. As with ISTEP+, Homestead requires students to pass ECA tests in order to graduate. Students must pass the Algebra I and English 10 ECA tests. Students also must take the Biology ECA test, required by the No Child Left Behind legislation. Similar to ISTEP+, students are allowed to retake ECA tests in order to get a passing grade.

Dianne Moake, assistant principal, says that the administration is "content" with the change. She also says that the ECA's are likely to continue next year.

Moake said, "The ECA is the new ISTEP+." – *Laura Zeng*

Was the flash drive virus ever solved?

Computers had their version of swine flu at Homestead this fall when the flash drive virus struck.

The virus, which was spread on students' portable file storage devices, would restart computers and frustrate students and teachers alike.

"It was one of the biggest problems on Homestead computers," Laura Johnson, Computer Specialist, said.

Installing a new virus scan on the computers, which was able to detect and then destroy the virus, finally solved the problem. Johnson said that installing MacAfee scan, the new program, was challenging because it involved removing the old virus software as well.

Ben Griffith (11) said that while the virus scan is a good idea, it is not currently being implemented properly.

"Having the software is great but doesn't do anything if [the scan's] not running," he said.

Griffith said that the scan does not run automatically, leaving computers vulnerable to more viruses.

He also said that the virus probably did not cause a lot of damage but was just a hassle.

"It was more of a nuisance than anything else," he said.

Johnson said that the most difficult part of the whole ordeal was alerting computer users about the problem.

"Students and teachers... did not understand the severity of the problem," she said. In the future, Johnson said she hopes that these problems will not happen again.

"Before bringing flash drives to school," Johnson said, "students should check for viruses—it's just good practice."

– *Molly Zweig*

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